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Arab-Israeli Talks

Progress Noted in PLO-Israeli Discussions in Tunis

NC2203163294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] PLO sources announced today that some progress was made during the talks between PLO officials and an Israeli delegation in Tunis in the past two days. The discussions revolved around ways of providing international protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories in line with the relevant UN Security Council resolution.

The sources added that the meetings between the two sides will be resumed in Cairo tomorrow. They pointed out that some ideas are being discussed that are likely to result in considerable progress.

The Israeli delegation members returned to Israel from Tunis today to consult with their government.

Meanwhile, it has been announced in Oslo that representatives of the donor countries that will extend aid for Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho will hold a one-day meeting in Cairo on Thursday [24 March]. They will discuss ways of establishing a Palestinian police force in the occupied territories.

The Norwegian foreign minister said this step is likely to put the Middle East negotiations back on track.

Source Cites Israeli 'Flexibility' After Ross Talks

NC2203203694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 22 Mar (MENA)—A high-level Palestinian source has said that a Palestinian-Israeli meeting will be held tomorrow night, Wednesday, in Cairo on the sidelines of the meeting of the donor countries assisting the Palestinians, which will be held in Cairo on Thursday [24 March].

The source said that Nabil Sha'th and Amnon Shahaq will cochair the Palestinian-Israeli talks, which will focus on Israel's reply to Palestinian demands that the Palestinians believe should be met ahead of the resumption of the peace talks.

According to the source, the Palestinian requests are:

1. Protecting the settlements should be the responsibility of the Israeli Government, not of individual settlers.

2. Israel should pledge to seek a solution to the tensions associated with the settlements.

3. Palestinian-Israeli talks should be held to discuss the form of transitional international presence in the occupied territories.

4. A joint Palestinian-Israeli committee should be formed to discuss the future of the settlements.

The Palestinian source said that the Israelis had given a negative reply to these requests but that the intercession of Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process, the two meetings he held with the Israeli delegation in Tunisia yesterday, and his meeting with President Yasir 'Arafat, brought the positions of the two sides closer. The source said that Ross has put pressure on the Israelis, making them show a great deal of flexibility.

The source stated that if the Israelis come with a positive and acceptable reply, an important meeting may be held on Thursday in Cairo between 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and an official statement declaring the resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations could be issued. The source added that everything depends on the outcome of the Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo tomorrow.

'Arafat Adviser Sha'th Arrives in Cairo

NC2203221794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Cairo tonight from Tunis, having taken part in two days of talks between the Palestinian leadership; Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process; and an Israeli delegation.

Dr. Sha'th pointed out that he will head the Palestinian delegation to the meeting that will be held on 24 March by representatives of 21 countries to discuss assistance for the Palestinian police force. He added that Ross will lead the U.S. delegation to that meeting.

The Palestinian official said that the Israeli delegation is expected to return to that meeting with some answers to the Palestinian demands, particularly the one concerning security in Hebron, following consultations with the Israeli Government.

Sha'th Views Resumption of Talks

NC2303080594 Paris AFP in English 0216 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, March 23 (AFP)—The PLO and Israel are moving toward an agreement on Palestinian security in the occupied territories that will enable a resumption in autonomy talks, a senior PLO official disclosed here late Tuesday [22 March].

Nabil Sha'th, who headed a Palestinian delegation at discussions with Israeli officials on Sunday and Monday in Tunis, said the PLO was banking on a positive Israeli response to its security demands when the two sides meet again here on Thursday.

Earlier reports from both Tunis and Israel had said the security talks would resume in Cairo on Wednesday.

"We can't say we got all that we wanted," Sha'th said of the Tunis meetings, "but we are on the way toward an opening that will allow for a resumption in the (autonomy) talks and the protection of the Palestinians."

He added that Israeli and PLO delegates would "probably" confer again here on Thursday at a meeting of 22 countries that are to finance a Palestinian police force for autonomous Palestinian areas of the Israeli-held territories. [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh Cancels PLO-Israeli Meeting in Cairo

JN2303065694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] While contacts, particularly with the PLO, are in full swing to resume the PLO-Israeli talks after the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution 904, clashes have erupted in the West Bank city of Hebron, where the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre was perpetrated. There were only small leaks about yesterday's confrontations due to the Israeli military censorship. REUTER said the Israeli Army killed a Palestinian woman, who was five months pregnant, while she was watching the clashes from the window of her house—clashes which resulted in the injury of at least five Palestinians.

In a telephone interview with our radio, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, confirmed the death of the woman and said about 30 Palestinians were wounded, and another three killed during the day. He added that the Israeli Army carried out a large-scale offensive in the city of Hebron, occupied the children's hospital and Queen 'Alya' Hospital, and fired rockets at houses on the pretext of searching for wanted persons. Therefore, added 'Abd-Rabbuh, today's Cairo meeting between the PLO and Israel will not be held.

This Cairo meeting was expected to be held after the failure of the Israeli and Palestinian sides in Tunis to agree to the resumption of peace talks. The meeting was scheduled to concentrate on the issue of protecting Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Al-Tibi: 'Abd-Rabbuh Remarks 'Misunderstood'

TA2303082894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Following consultations with the PLO leadership in Tunis, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, said this morning that there was no intention of suspending the Cairo talks. Al-Tibi asserted that the statements made by Yasir 'Abd- Rabbuh, the head of the PLO's Information Department, were misunderstood. Dr. al-Tibi believes that Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh merely sought to highlight the obstacles events in Hebron are placing in the path of the autonomy talks.

Negotiations in Cairo Delayed for Several Hours

NC2303071994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0632 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—MENA has learned that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on international protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories, which were scheduled to open in Cairo at noon today, have been postponed until 1700 today.

Diplomatic sources said a change in the arrival time of the Israeli delegation led by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir caused the delay.

Emerging Israel-PLO Agreement Reported

TA2303111794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Mar 94 p 6

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and Tunis correspondent Orli Azulay-Katz]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres were thoroughly briefed last night about the outcome of the talks in Tunis. It has been learned that the sides decided on a series of measures to protect the Palestinians and increase their sense of security in the wake of the massacre in the Cave of the Patriarchs.

These are the understandings reached so far:

—An international presence in Hebron, apparently a unit made up of a few dozen observers from Norway.

—The establishment of a Palestinian police unit consisting of several hundred troops which would deploy in Hebron and would be under joint Israeli-Palestinian command.

—Joint patrols to be conducted by Israel, the Palestinians, and the foreign observers.

Palestinian observers in Tunis report on the following understandings which have not yet been confirmed by Israel:

—Seven days after the delegations reach a final agreement, an armed Palestinian police force will enter the West Bank and begin its operations to impose order.

—The trailer neighborhood in the Jericho area will be evacuated at once. Three months later, Jewish settlers will be evacuated from the heart of Hebron and relocated elsewhere, apparently in Qiryat Arba'. Israel has categorically denied that it agreed to evacuate the settlers from Hebron.

—All Palestinian deportees will be allowed to return to Jericho.

—The PLO leadership will arrive in Jericho a month after the deployment of the Palestinian police force. PLO administrative personnel and a task force would

arrive in the area earlier to make all the arrangements for the arrival of the leadership. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Syrian 'Veto' on PLO Halts Cordon States Meetings

PM2303101194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Mar 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Syrian 'Veto' on PLO Torpedoes Cordon States Meetings"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Highly placed Jordanian sources have stated that the formula governing the meetings of the Arab cordon states, namely Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and the PLO, probably no longer exists and no coordination meetings are expected to be held in the near future.

The sources added that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' had stated frankly at Amman airport on his latest visit that the PLO had ruled itself out of all coordination frameworks when it signed the Oslo agreement in Washington last September.

The sources expected the five-party cordon states formula to be replaced by coordination meetings between Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, who has resigned from the PLO Executive Committee, also ruled out the possibility of a cordon states meeting in the near future. In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he said that "such meetings came to a halt when the PLO leadership solitarily signed the Oslo agreement, which made Damascus emphatically object to the PLO's presence [at coordination meetings]. [no closing quotation mark]

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, tried unsuccessfully to soften the Syrian position and to call for a coordination meeting attended by the five parties. The valid formula now is one of consultation between the three parties. That was clear when President Hafiz al-Asad, in his conversation with U.S. President Bill Clinton after the Security Council passed its resolution 904, said that Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon had agreed to resume the negotiations with Israel.

Political observers in Amman point out that Cairo is no longer very enthusiastic for a coordination meeting of the Cordon States and that at present it gives priority to the implementation of the PLO-Israel Cairo agreement, over which Cairo had a diplomatic clash with Washington when President Clington called for the transfer of the venue of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to Washington. That disagreement was resolved on the basis that the final agreement between the two sides would be signed in Cairo.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Resolution 904, Talks With Israelis

NC2303112694 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in Tunis, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, from the in the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] We have with us over the phone lines between Cairo and Tunis Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. Mr. President, good morning to you and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Arafat] Good morning.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. President, did the Israeli delegation you met with recently propose anything new to you regarding the peace process, especially after Security Council Resolution 904 was issued demanding protection for the Palestinians and disarming the Israeli settlers?

['Arafat] The delegation came to Tunis carrying a few proposals from the Israeli Government, especially after the draft resolution was issued in the Security Council which was passed unanimously, despite some reservations expressed by the American side on the subject of Jerusalem. The delegation put forward the issue of international presence, but as you know, unfortunately, their initial idea was to have international presence in the form of the International Red Cross. I do not want to say too much, but this was completely rejected. I do not wish to devalue the Red Cross, but the Red Cross is there already. It has always been present in the occupied territories and is performing its duties very well. It has submitted many reports condemning Israel for violating human rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention. There are files and files on this matter in Geneva.

What we want is a force, a force to protect... [pauses] The Security Council resolution stipulates protecting, protecting, protecting [preceding word in English], protecting the Palestinians. Protecting the Palestinians cannot be done by some employees of the International Red Cross. This is why we insist on an effective international presence. This international presence should be deployed quickly in Hebron. We also want a force from the Palestinian police to be deployed in Hebron quickly. Of course, the Israeli delegation has so far not given us an answer on this topic. We are awaiting the final response from it. It is possible that we will get the final response from the Israeli Government tomorrow or the day after in Cairo on the sidelines of the donor states' meeting which will be held in Cairo on Thursday [24 March].

Our stand is clear and frank: We demand the implementation of what has been agreed on and stipulated at the Security Council. Israel must take actual measures.

These measures must be clear; they should first and foremost deal with the armed settlers and how to disarm them. I can tell you for a fact and very precisely that Article No. 2 of Resolution 904 asks Israel, the occupying power, to continue to take and implement measures, among which are the seizure of weapons with the objective of preventing illegitimate acts of violence by the Israeli settlers.

The Security Council also calls for implementing measures to protect and safeguard the Palestinian civilians throughout the occupied Palestinian territories. These include temporary international presence, which will be renewed every year like all other international forces all over the world. This is a matter stipulated in the Declaration of Principles.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. President, did the Israeli delegation propose the resumption of the peace talks with you?

['Arafat] This will depend on their final reply. Will they adhere to the UN Security Council resolution? Will the two co-sponsors begin implementing the UN Security Council resolution? Will the Israelis adopt effective measures to ensure the non-repetition of new massacres, new frictions, and new massacres? Therefore, we are awaiting their answer on Thursday, God willing. We hope they will bring answers to these questions. In addition, arrests of our people are continuing. They say they have released 900 detainees. But in the meantime they have arrested about 1,500 people in the past three weeks.

[Abu-al-Majd] You also met with Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the peace process. Did you ask him to see to it that the UN Security Council 904 is turned into real action at the basic level? Did he propose to you anything from the U.S. Administration for the protection of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and for the resumption of the peace talks?

['Arafat] In these talks we discussed how to implement the UN Security Council resolution. We received some positive replies upon which, we can say, we can build.

[Abu-al-Majd] What are these replies?

['Arafat] International protection, for example. We support this international protection. It is true that its form and size have not been fully determined between us and the Israelis. However, they agree on international protection and on the implementation of UN Security Council 904 and the others measures that must be taken at the basic level.

[Abu-al-Majd] Did the U.S. coordinator propose new ideas regarding this protection?

['Arafat] He proposed many things. I prefer not to mention them until full measures are formulated, which our people will see at the basic level and which will reassure them. These measures will ensure their security and protection. These are basic things for us. These measures will also ensure the safety and security of our Islamic and Christian holy shrines.

[Abu-al-Majd] If the Israeli reply is not positive in light of these developments, how do you view the peace process in the coming phase?

['Arafat] We should not anticipate events. We are optimistic. This issue is no longer a Palestinian-Israeli issue. After the UN Security Council resolution, it has become the responsibility of the two cosponors to implement this resolution. We must wait and see how this implementation will take place. We should not anticipate events.

[Abu-al-Majd] Was Resolution 904 in harmony with the wishes of the Palestinian people at this phase?

['Arafat] Of course not. Do you think that any state can issue any Security Council resolution it wants? We are not a superpower. We, plus the Arab effort, the Islamic effort, the nonaligned effort, and our friends' efforts, were barely able to win this resolution. Nevertheless, as you have seen, the word Jerusalem turned the world upside down. There were attempts that lasted for weeks to persuade us to omit the world Jerusalem. Nobody can omit Jerusalem, neither from our conscience nor from our decisions. Whoever wants to veto, let him veto. Therefore, this was our position. The resolution was delayed because of this for weeks. The resolution was issued. The resolution in itself was not bad. I cannot say we took everything we wanted. However, the resolution was not bad. The most important thing in it is the world consensus. The United Nations is now responsible for this resolution through the two cosponsors, namely the Russian Federation and the United States.

[Abu-al-Majd] Does the Israeli and U.S. rejection of proposals made by Russia recently, that a new international conference for peace in the Middle East along the Madrid conference lines take place, mean that the Russian role has started to diminish, or that Russia is also attempting to exert some pressure on these negotiations? What could Russia propose in the next stage?

['Arafat] First of all, you should not forget that Russia is one of the cosponsors of the Madrid peace process. At that time, it was the Soviet Union and then it became the Russian Federation. The Security Council resolution asks the cosponsors of the conference, the Russian Federation and the United States, to implement the aforementioned resolutions. Therefore, their efforts are stipulated in the resolution. Undoubtedly, we notice good and positive activity from Russia, and we welcome this Russian activity.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. President, the Israeli housing minister says that he is confident that negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis will resume soon despite the difficulties. Where did the Israeli housing minister get his optimism, given the current obstacles?

['Arafat] [words indistinct] This minister, along with eight other ministers, that is, half the Israeli cabinet,

support taking quick measures against the settlers in Hebron, for example. Therefore, I told the delegation that came to visit me here that half their cabinet is against the activities of the settlers. It is not possible to allow such belligerence to continue these days in cooperation with some political parties in Israel. The whole world sees on their television sets what the Israeli military patrols and the armed settlers are doing.

Today in Hebron, there was a tragedy. The houses of Palestinians are being shelled with rockets in southern Hebron under the pretext that there are two outlaws being chased. For the sake of two people we destroy the whole town. This prompts us to affirm that what is happening is collusion between the Army and the armed settlers. Hebron has not yet bandaged its wounds. It is still bleeding. And they go ahead and start this fierce battle in it.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do you believe that given the situation now, there is need for a meeting between you and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to resolve all these problems?

['Arafat] I would like to meet with him, but we do not want a meeting like the past ones in which we did not reach any solutions. Are we supposed to add fuel to the fire? I am ready to meet him, but a final decision should be made to accurately and honestly implement what was agreed on and signed in the White House in September of last year, and recently the Security Council resolution that was issued a couple of days ago.

[Abu-al-Majd] Mr. President, how do you view the Egyptian effort now at this stage to help set the Palestinian people on the practical road to establishing their entity?

['Arafat] I wish to thank my brother Husni Mubarak for his patience with us and his concerted efforts, as well as the efforts of his brothers in the Egyptian Government, including the Foreign Ministry efforts and those of Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. We cannot forget them. Our people are recording these efforts with great love and appreciation, and we cannot forget such efforts. It is not strange for Egypt to do this. The relationship that links Egypt with Palestine is not a superficial relationship. No. It is a strong relationship which goes back through the ages historically, geographically, politically, and religiously, with Jerusalem, the third holiest Islamic shrine, the Prophet's destination in his night journey from Mecca, and the cradle of Christ.

Therefore, once again, I thank President Mubarak and my brothers in Egypt for their efforts on all levels. My people will never forget their stands. Once again, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

[Abu-al-Majd] Finally, Palestinian President 'Arafat, what do you wish to tell the steadfast Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories over the Voice of the Arabs?

['Arafat] If God helps you, nobody can overcome you [Koranic verse]. I wish to tell my people, be patient and trust in God. I know that our people are a great people who cannot be shaken by a conspiracy, nor can their determination, patience, belief, or jihad be affected by a massacre. In fact, massacres only increase their determination, strength, and persistence to continue along their path. The Palestinian people have been established on the political and geographic map of the region. No one can reject these Palestinian people or the crucial factor they constitute in the Middle East peace equation.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dear brothers, at the end of this dialogue, we thank you and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who was with us over the telephone lines between Cairo and Tunis. Thank you Mr. President.

['Arafat] Thank you.

'Arafat, Russian Envoy, Discuss Hebron Resolution

LD2203180594 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] this morning met with Viktor Posuvalyuk, the special envoy of Russian President Yeltsin, for the fourth time in two days. At the meeting, they examined the latest developments and contacts on the implementation of the [UN] Security Council Resolution 904 on the massacre at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, as well as the forthcoming meeting of the volunteers [as heard] due to take place in Cairo on 24 March on [Palestinian] security.

Gaza's Fatah, Peace Now Call For Early Withdrawal

TA2203173594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Excerpts] PLO leaders in the Gaza Strip and the Peace Now movement this morning issued a joint statement in which they called for bringing forward the implementation of the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. Peace Now activists also met with Fatah leaders in Hebron for the first time since the massacre in the Cave of the Patriarchs. Our correspondent Yiftah El'azar reports:

[Begin recording] [El'azar] Dozens of Fatah members from Hebron tensely waited for the Peace Now activists in Bayt Jala, south of Jerusalem. Contacts between Fatah's leadership in Hebron and the Israeli peace camp were ruptured in the aftermath of the massacre. However, Peace Now leaders arrived at the meeting location today with a message of dialogue. Mustafa al-Natshah, the former mayor of Hebron, told them: The desire for peace has survived the massacre.

[Al-Natshah, in English] Nobody says I don't want peace. But, in order to have a just peace and a long-lasting one you need to have the ground paved for this peace. Settlements, settlers, and peace are contradictions.

[El'azar translates the above and continues] Come back to the negotiating table and cooperate with the state commission of inquiry, Peace Now activists asked the Palestinians. Gavri Bar-Gil, Peace Now's secretary general, said the demand to eliminate the settlements was definitely justified. [passage omitted]

The sides parted without reaching any agreement. Behind the scenes, however, Peace Now today scored an achievement. In a closed meeting held this morning in the PLO's offices in Gaza, Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, the PLO coordinator in the Gaza Strip, said that the Palestinians were prepared to return to the negotiating table. The Fatah leadership in the Gaza Strip and Peace Now issued a joint statement proposing to bring forward the implementation of the Declaration of Principles. [end recording]

Political Factions Demand 'Arafat Quit Talks

TA2203190094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Report by correspondent Amir Hay]

[Excerpts] For the first time since the Madrid conference, the representatives of all the political factions in Hebron, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad, held a joint news conference. They protested the steps taken by Israel in the wake of the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs and called on 'Arafat to quit the peace talks immediately. [passage omitted]

The Hebron massacre has unified all the political factions in Hebron in their demand to station an international protection force in the territories and to evacuate all the Jewish settlers from Hebron. [passage omitted]

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the deputy chairman of the Palestinian delegation, said that despite the pain felt over the Hebron massacre, the Palestinians should continue the negotiations with Israel. 'Urayqat's remarks elicited a furious reaction from the audience. [passage omitted]

The steps taken by Israel immediately after the Hebron massacre, such as the establishment of the Shamgar Commission, are seen here as a predetermined farce. The only way to resolve the crisis, the participants said, is to redefine the concept of security in the territories so that it will cease to be the exclusive monopoly of the Jews.

PFLP: Bus Attack Part of 'Settling Scores'

TA2203123794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Excerpts] George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has assumed responsibility for the terrorist attack on a bus near the settlement of 'Ateret yesterday. Two Israeli citizens were injured in the attack. Here is a report by our correspondent in the territories, Golan Yokhpaz:

A leaflet signed by PFLP activists and in which the organization assumes responsibility for the terrorist attack on a bus near the settlement of 'Ateret, north of Jerusalem, was disseminated in Ramallah this morning. This is the first operation in the framework of settling scores between the Palestinian people and the Zionists following the massacre in the Cave of the Patriarchs, the PFLP activists state in their leaflet. Our forces will not cease their activities until a just and comprehensive solution has been found to the Palestinian problem and until a Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital has been founded. The leaflet goes on to say that the attack was carried out by two PFLP fighters who succeeded in escaping. [passage omitted]

Two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists were arrested this morning several hundred meters north of the Erez checkpoint. Armed with a knife, the two managed to make their way out of the Gaza Strip without permits to enter Israel. They planned to carry out a terrorist attack in Israel. They were carrying a leaflet signed by Hamas and a copy of the Koran.

Hamas Claims Responsibility for Attack

TA2303092494 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Yig'al Wilfend and ITIM]

[Excerpt] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has claimed responsibility for the attack Monday [21 March] night near the settlement of 'Ateret north of Ramallah.

A leaflet distributed yesterday in the Gaza Strip, Ramallah, and East Jerusalem noted that the attack near Bi'r Zayt in which five settlers were wounded had been perpetrated by 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam troops.

The leaflet added that this was "the beginning of the implementation of the plan to expel the settlers from all the territories," as had been promised in a previous leaflet in which the settlers were given an ultimatum to leave by 15 March. The authors contend that this ultimatum had already caused several families to leave Qiryat Arba'. However, the leaflet noted, Hamas does not consider this sufficient "and will continue to strike until the last settler leaves." [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC Claims Responsibility for Ambushes

JN2203190694 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1740 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Military communique read by PFLP-GC spokesman on 22 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

To avenge the continuing Zionist crimes in Palestine; in reply to the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre; to vindicate the souls of our people's martyrs; to confirm that direct clashes with enemy troops are the way to defeat the occupation troops and the Zionist expansionist scheme; because the heroic mujahidin and revolutionaries believe armed struggle is the only possible way to liberate Palestine and other occupied Arab territories and defeat the liquidatory plan promoted by the Tunis-headquartered PLO leadership as enshrined in the Gaza-Jericho accord; and to expose the resolutions of the UN Security Council, which has turned into a pliable tool in the hands of the United States and the Zionist enemy, one of our units operating behind enemy lines laid an ambush for enemy patrols in the al-'Ayshiyah-al-Rayhan mountainous area.

At 1200 on Monday, 21 March 1994, our heroic fighters opened fire on a Zionist patrol. As usual, the enemy attempted to underestimate its losses. However, it later admitted that two of its soldiers were killed.

In view of the immense losses sustained by the enemy, the Zionist aggression troops, in cooperation with the agent Lahd troops, poured their terrorist firepower on the heads of Lebanese and Palestinian civilians, targeting schools, markets, and residential neighborhoods.

While underscoring the importance of stepping up armed struggle, and while persisting with this jihad course, we, in the PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command], believe the best reply to the enemy's massacres; that is, protecting our people against its terrorism, is only achievable when the fire of the blessed intifadah is fuelled, and when the course of jihad and armed struggle is nurtured.

We would like to address the following questions to all those engaged in bargaining: What do you call the current shelling and killing of civilians? Is not the shelling of al-Nabatiyah, Sidon, and 'Ayn al-Hulwah the epitome of terrorism?

Our open war against the Zionist enemy and the mujahidin attacks are the resistance approach our people have chosen as a way to liberate land and man.

We will apprise you of any new developments or details.

It is a revolution until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

[Dated] 22 March 1994

Radio Rebukes U.S. for Resolution 904 Stance

JN2203210294 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Finally, 25 days after a terrible massacre took place at the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque, the Security Council issued its Resolution No. 904. This will be added to a large record containing scores and even hundreds of resolutions that tell the history of the Palestine question, the most tragic event in human history, in which right and injustice fiercely conflict with each other. Right has nothing except shouts of justice and legitimacy, while injustice has a sword and the ability to kill and can create a river of blood and tears and a lot of agony. The massacre that occurred at the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque is not the first and it will not be the last.

At last, the resolution, which consists of a preamble and five clauses, was issued. During its lengthy and difficult delivery, many things happened, foremost of which is the continued killing of Palestinians, not only at the hands of the settlers, but also at the hands of the Israeli Army forces themselves. This added to the atmosphere of procrastination, pressure, and threat the United States is exercising in its capacity as the leader of the world and the major sponsor of the peace process.

As a result, the United States refused to vote on two very important clauses. The first clause is mentioned in the preamble. It stipulates the need to provide protection for our Palestinian people. The second clause stipulates Israeli withdrawal from the territories Israel occupied in June 1979, including Jerusalem.

O brothers, the refusal of the United States to vote on these two clauses has serious implications, foremost of which is the U.S. retreat from its previous positions, decisions, and assurances regarding the Palestine question and the core of the conflict. It is a retreat from the issue of land, which is the subject of the conflict and from the Palestinian people's security that is the main element in this conflict.

Taking the Israeli viewpoint, it becomes clear that Israel is trying to tell us: We slaughter you. We protect you. You have no choice. As for the U.S. viewpoint, which is identical to this, it is telling us: You have negotiations ahead of you. Everything is decided at the negotiating table, even your life itself.

This is the most heinous form of injustice. It is the quarrelsomeness of the idiot force that leaves no room for right. It is a flagrant injustice that tells us: See you at the next massacre.

In this terrible context, the Palestine question, also known as the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Middle East issue, will continue to be watered with its own blood and fed from its great pain, and to glow above and beneath ashes as a result of this blatant injustice, overall despair, and this full bias in accordance with which the United States moves to protect the Israeli killer from the efforts

he exerted in killing the Palestinian victim. God is great, the earth was shaken, and the heavens moved as a result of this grave injustice, the tyranny of force, and the murder of peace on the land of peace.

However, brothers, we know injustice is the spark of every revolution, the tyranny of force is the beginning of every explosion, and the disdain of the blood of innocent people is the curse no one will escape. And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

We go back to politics and say: Will UN Security Council Resolution No. 904 be turned into tangible and concrete measures? Will the settlers leave Hebron? Will the criminal settlers be disarmed? Will the vanguards of the UN protection force arrive in the Palestinian land? This is an urgent time for these questions, especially since the U.S. Administration did not approve the passing of the UN Security Council resolution on the massacre until after it obtained assurances from the Arab cordon states to resume the negotiations in April. This requires a maximum degree of Arab awareness, caution, and coordination, which we hope will be achieved during the meeting the Arab cordon states will hold soon on the foreign ministers' level.

Brothers, still, we should say that every Palestinian wound, regardless of how painful it is, can be endured by our great struggler people if this wound illuminates our nation's conscience, and gives it a new incentive to rise above its internal differences, wounds, and transient contradictions. We wholeheartedly hope that all this will be achieved because the alternative is the recurrence of the tragedy. The nation that disdains its people's blood encourages others to disdain it. It is a revolution until victory!

Paper Criticizes U.S. Stance on Resolution

PM2203094294 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 21 Mar 94 p 11

[Unattributed editorial: "If Only It Used the Veto"]

[Text] Three weeks after the Hebron massacre, the UN Security Council has issued a resolution condemning it and urging international protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories in accordance with the clauses of the Fourth Geneva convention. Although the United States did not use the veto against the resolution, it did something worse by opposing the consolidation of Palestinian identity in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with Jerusalem as an integral part of it.

It is difficult for us to see this U.S. position as anything but negative, especially as the Arabs—individually and collectively—offered numerous concessions to make the peace process sponsored by Washington a success.

The danger in the U.S. abstention from voting lies not only in the complete bias toward Israel and its crimes in the occupied territories, but in the credibility of the peace process sponsored by it in its early and final stages.

If the United States does not believe that the occupied territories in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are Palestinian territory, this means it espouses the Israeli position, which regards them as disputed territories—which conflicts with all international charters and laws and the letters of guarantees and assurances the U.S. Administration sent to the parties concerned and on the basis of which it participated in the Madrid peace conference.

As for the U.S. abstention from considering Jerusalem an integral part of the occupied Arab territories, it can only be interpreted in one way: There is no guarantee of the inclusion of this fundamental issue on the agenda of the final phase of negotiations. And even if it is included, it might not encounter U.S. support.

This U.S. position put all Arabs, not just the Palestinians, in a very embarrassing position. Because the Arabism of the land has become threatened and the future of sovereignty over Jerusalem has become more vague.

What arouses astonishment and amazement is some Arab parties' rush to respond to the "telephone" demand by the U.S. to return to the negotiations, without having obtained specific clarifications to determine the true U.S. position after the recent voting, especially with regard to the identity of Jerusalem.

More than one Israeli newspaper has quoted U.S. President Bill Clinton as calling Jerusalem the unified capital of Israel. We were surprised by some Arab newspapers' rush to publish a denial of these remarks by U.S. officials who volunteered to make this denial to save the Clinton administration among Arab circles.

The abstention of the U.S. representative to the Security Council from the vote on considering Jerusalem part of the occupied territories justifies Israeli press reports about President Clinton's position on Jerusalem and his view of its future—a dishonorable situation for the Arabs at any rate.

And if Dr. Barukh Goldstein and those who participated with him in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron have revealed serious loopholes in the declaration of principles agreement vis-a-vis the Palestinians' security in the occupied territories, the recent voting in the UN Security Council has revealed bigger loopholes in the U.S. position on fundamental issues—loopholes that could kill the current peace process in all its early and final stages.

All the calamities afflicting the Arabs are the result of the lack of coordination among the parties concerned and the complete submission to U.S. policies in the region, beginning with the embargo imposed on Iraq through to the sanctions imposed on Libya and the swift response to the appeals to return to the negotiating table without any conditions or guarantees.

It is regrettable that the Hebron massacre and the subsequent smaller massacres, which occurred in confrontations between Arab demonstrators and Israelis armed to the teeth, should take place and yet we hear no Arab call to convene an Arab League meeting at any level to discuss the matter and agree on a unified plan to raise the issue in international forums.

Israeli, U.S. Efforts To Gain Concessions Seen

TA2203163094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 22 Mar 94 p 11

[Editorial: "Arab Coordination Has Become a Strategic Necessity"]

[Text] Since the signing of the interim agreement between the PLO and Israel on 13 September, a reduction has been observed in the levels of coordination and consultation among the Arab parties participating in the peace process. Sometimes one has even noticed the disappearance of those contacts and coordination efforts, so much so that it has been left to coincidence and unscheduled occasions to provide some sort of accidental contact between the Arab parties to at least maintain the appearance of solidarity.

Following the Hebron massacre, bilateral and multilateral talks were suspended on all tracks. There was a conviction or almost agreement that the talks would not be resumed until the UN Security Council issues a resolution on the massacre. No sooner was that resolution issued than it was announced in Washington, not in the Arab capitals concerned, that the resumption of the talks was imminent.

Thus, inter-Arab contacts have become subject to emergency conditions, whereas those contacts were and remain an important card in the hands of Arab negotiators. Presumably, if the Arab side had known how to use this card, the Arab negotiating position would have improved a great deal. Perhaps, it would have been possible to avoid many of the predicaments that befell the Arab parties due to lack of consultation and coordination between them.

Now, with the retreats in the negotiating process on the various Arab tracks, without exception, and the successes achieved by the Israeli side due to its special and excellent relationship with its U.S. partner, illustrated by the recent U.S. abstention on a paragraph in Resolution 904 that considered Jerusalem to be part of the occupied territories, it seems that the logical solution for the Arab parties is to leave the closed regional circles and return to dealing jointly with the sole Arab cause. The Israeli and U.S. sides are not only trying to separate this cause, but also to exploit the division of the Arab negotiating tracks as a game to which they can resort whenever they want to exert pressure with the aim of obtaining more Arab concessions on this or that track.

The Hebron massacre repercussions and the dangerous signals that accompanied the issuance of the Security Council resolution require the acceleration of meetings and serious contacts among the Arab parties concerned, because now the cause has become above narrow regional differences and interpretations. The dimensions of the cause have actually extended to include the superior Arab strategic interest, which was and will remain above every transitory difference and interpretation.

Algeria

Foreign Minister Comments on Visit to Libya

LD2203222294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Feb 94

[Text] After coming to a standstill, Algerian-Libyan relations are being given a new boost and are being revived by the visit of Mr. Mohamed Salah Dembri, the foreign minister and personal envoy of President Liamine Zeroual, to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Over to TV reporter Souria Bouamama for more details on the visit:

[Bouamama] In traditional Arab decor, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, yesterday received Mohamed Salah Dembri, who handed him a letter of friendship and esteem from Liamine Zeroual to the leadership and people of Libya. During this meeting, al-Qadhdhafi renewed his satisfaction with Zeroual's appointment as president of state and wished him success.

On the purpose of this visit, Salah Dembri had this to say:

[Begin Dembri recording] This visit follows the recent visit which brother al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi paid to Algeria. During this visit we discussed ways to strengthen and bolster our bilateral relations. We also talked about all the issues of common interest, including matters concerning the situation in the Arab homeland, particularly the current situation in the Maghreb. We also talked about everything which concerns us in our natural environment, namely the African environment and our Mediterranean environment. [end recording]

[Bouamama] On this visit, Mr. Jam'a al-Fazzani, general secretary of the People's Committee for Unity, had this to say:

[Begin recording] [al-Fazzani] This visit is aimed at starting a new phase which is more advanced and clearer in the establishment of Libyan Arab-Algerian relations, which are based on a number of factors. These include the ties and bonds linking the two fraternal peoples, and also the principles on which the 1 November Revolution and the 1 September Revolution are based. These principles bring us closer together and do not separate us.

[Bouamama] Now that we are flying in Libyan airspace, despite the embargo imposed on Libya, how is Libya living now under the embargo?

[al-Fazzani] I am glad you have asked this question. The Libyan Arab people are standing fast in the face of the blockade because they are aware of the extent of the conspiracy being hatched against them. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement

LD2203223994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A Foreign Affairs Ministry statement said today that a constructive fraternal atmosphere prevailed during this meeting in which Mr. Dembri conveyed the greetings of the head of state, Lamine Zeroual, to his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Al-Qadhdhafi in turn charged Dembri with carrying an appreciation and gratitude message to President Lamine Zeroual in which he concentrated on the strength of the cooperation and solidarity relations which link the two fraternal countries.

The statement also added that the ways and means of consolidating cooperation between Algeria and Libya, in addition to other issues, particularly the march of the great Arab Maghreb, were discussed during the meeting.

The statement also pointed out that during this meeting points of view on the Aouzou Strip were exchanged within the context of good neighbourliness and cooperation.

'Terrorists' Kill 2 Frenchmen in Algiers Suburb

LD2303102994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Security services announced that two Frenchmen were assassinated yesterday around 2230 in Birkhadem in the capital's suburbs. The same sources said that Michel Drouaier, a partner in a private enterprise in Algeria, and his 24-year-old son, Pascal Valery, were killed by cold steel weapons by five terrorists inside their home in Charbonier district in Birkhadem.

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Country's Stability, Incidents

NC2203142594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1250 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Remarks by President Husni Mubarak followed by his response to a question from radio correspondent Muntasir Rahmi on 22 March; from the "The World on the Air" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Mubarak] Egyptian industry really needs no testimony from me. A very high percentage of our private sector and business sector factories could be exporting their products. As long as they export their products, what better testimony do they need? [passage omitted]

[Rahmi] Do the things you saw during your tour today reflect the state of stability in Egypt?

[Mubarak] Egypt is stable. Incidents that occur here and there are no big issue. Such things happen daily in the world. But some parties blow things out of proportion.

We also used to exaggerate the issue. To increase their circulation, our newspapers used to carry banner headlines about incidents not worth such headlines. Every day I see incidents happen everywhere that are hundreds of times more frequent than the incidents in our country. I declare that Egypt is secure and stable, despite the minor incidents, which, God willing, will disappear. I hope that the youths who accept a little cash to do these silly things will regain their senses and realize that their actions do not serve the country's interests or their own or their families' interests. All industry, investment, tourism, and similar projects create jobs for people. When they carry out these actions, they are costing people's livelihood. Thank you.

[Rahmi] Thank you, sir.

'Arafat Sends 'Urgent' Message to Mubarak on Talks

NC2203215694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has sent a message to President Husni Mubarak regarding the outcome of the talks 'Arafat held yesterday with Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace talks, and an Israeli delegation led by Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq. This was disclosed by Egyptian Ambassador to Tunisia Ibrahim 'Allam.

Ambassador 'Allam said that President 'Arafat received him today and asked him to relay an urgent oral message to President Mubarak concerning the outcome of these talks and the current efforts to resume Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

The Egyptian ambassador said that in his message 'Arafat reiterated his confidence in Egypt's efforts and support for the Palestinian people. 'Arafat also praised Mubarak's efforts to promote the peace process and help the Palestinian people restore their rights.

U.S. Coordinator for Peace Process Arrives

Ross Arrives From Tunis

NC2203120294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA)—Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace negotiations, and his delegation arrived in Cairo from Tunis this afternoon on a working visit of several hours.

Ross will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on developments in the region, efforts to remove obstacles to the peace negotiations, and the results of his talks with the Palestinian leadership in Tunis.

Musa, Ross Comment on Talks

NC2203164394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace negotiations.

During this meeting, discussions focused on the latest developments in the peace process and the problems it is encountering, in particular the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre committed by the Israeli settlers against the Palestinian worshipers.

After his meeting with Foreign Minister Musa, Ross stated that they held detailed discussions about the peace process.

Ross added that he informed 'Amr Musa of the results of his discussions in Tunis. He clarified that these talks were "encouraging."

Ross described the discussions he held with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat as "constructive." He said Chairman 'Arafat's talks with the Israelis were also constructive.

The American official expressed his hope that some progress will be made regarding security and understanding in the Middle East.

Ross also expressed his hope that progress be made quickly in the negotiations regarding the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

He said that during the past two days extensive and serious talks have been held between the concerned parties to address all issues.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that during their meeting today Dennis Ross informed him of the results of his talks in Tunis with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, as well as the talks between the Palestinian leadership and the Israeli delegation that recently visited Tunis.

'Amr Musa said that he understands there will be a continuation of these Palestinian-Israeli talks regarding the situation in Hebron and other topics dealing with Gaza and Jericho.

On the possibility of convening a meeting between 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, 'Amr Musa said there is no further information on this matter and that he cannot confirm it. He expressed his hope that some breakthrough will be made in the stance or that Israel will withdraw very soon. He also hoped that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will be realized soon.

Ross Departs

NC2203170194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1627 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process, left Cairo tonight following a brief visit to Egypt.

During his visit, Ross held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa about the recent developments in the region and the current efforts to overcome the difficulties facing the peace talks.

DPRK Education Minister on Official Visit

Meets Mubarak

NC2103144694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received the DPRK's education minister today. Education Minister Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din attended the meeting.

Following the session, the Korean minister said that he conveyed to President Mubarak an invitation from Korean President Kim Il-song to visit the DPRK. He added that he discussed with President Mubarak various regional and international issues, ways of developing ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, and ways of bolstering the Nonaligned Movement.

Meanwhile, Dr. Baha'-al-Din said that the Korean minister delivered a message to President Mubarak from President Kim Il-song. He added that President Mubarak accepted the invitation to visit the DPRK at a date that will be set later.

Received by Musa

NC2303121194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with North Korean Education Minister Cho Ae-yong [name and title as heard]. The latter stated that they discussed issues of mutual interest and ways to bolster bilateral relations. He said that the Korean delegation was honored when the president received them. He added that in light of the talks the Korean delegation has held relations between the two countries will progress and develop during the coming stage. The Korean education minister said his country appreciates the efforts Egypt is exerting to resolve the Middle East problem justly and fairly. He declared his country's condemnation of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

Fundamentalism in Egypt, Algeria Compared

NC1803175894 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Mar 94 p 7

[Interviews with Islamic writer Dr. Muhammad 'Amarah and former Egyptian Ambassador to Algeria Husayn Amin by Tal'at al-Mughrabi in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Mughrabi] What are the similarities between Egypt's and Algeria's Islamic fundamentalism?

['Amarah] The term fundamentalism, as used in the Western sense, has a negative connotation. In the Islamic and Arabic sense, fundamentalists are groups that advocate jihad and revival and they are not, as is the case in the West, ungrateful, reactionary, and imitative. The aspects that all Islamic movements in the whole Islamic world have in common are that they have an Islamic source [al-marji'iyah al-islamiyah] and form an alternative to Western secularism and materialism. They seek to establish a totally Islamic society and a state committed to the Islamic shari'ah. However, they can be distinguished from one another and their programs vary according to their own national situations and the challenges confronting them. The Islamic movement in Egypt is not newly-formed, as is the case in Algeria.

[Al-Mughrabi] Are there any differences between the two movements?

['Amarah] The Muslim Brotherhood constitutes the major Islamic movement in Egypt. It is the mother movement of all Islamic movements worldwide. In Egypt there are a group of ulema, thinkers, and innovative and creative revivalists who are involved in the Islamic cultural plan. Egyptian society does not accept large-scale violence. In Algeria, the Islamic movement is new and is poor in cadres. The Algerian movement represents a grouping of trends and is a front in the real sense of the word. Also, the challenges of Westernization and the francophonists in Algeria are more intense in view of the influence of French colonization.

[Al-Mughrabi] Are there contacts and coordination between the two movements?

['Amarah] No. The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in Algeria is purely Algerian and emanated from Algeria. The Algerian group that is methodologically linked to the Muslim Brotherhood is "Hamas" [The Algerian Islamic Society Movement].

[Al-Mughrabi] How would you evaluate the authorities' relationship with each group?

['Amarah] The present regime in Algeria derives from an illegal coup against the Algerian nation's choice. This is not the case in Egypt. Also, violence in Algeria is comprehensive and severe, whereas in Egypt a limited number commit acts of violence, although the information media exaggerate them. Violence in Egypt meets

violence from a sector of the state, but not all the state supports violence and not all the Islamic movement supports violence.

[Al-Mughrabi] What is the dilemma of the Islamic movements in Egypt and Algeria?

['Amarah] The Islamic movement in Algeria will inevitably triumph because all the people support it and the Algerian regime is completely impotent. The situation in Egypt is different. The Egyptian regime's resources are much greater than those of the Algerian one. However, the red lines that the outside world draws against any change in favor of Islam in Egypt are much clearer in view of Egypt's role and influence. Moreover, the Islamic movement in Egypt is not facing a dilemma. The dilemma in Egypt lies in the absence of secular parties among the masses. My conviction is that the Islamic trend in Egypt is not in a hurry to take power; its present goal is to have an opportunity to act legally, and this would lessen the violence that is distorting the image of the Islamic trend.

[Al-Mughrabi] How long will the confrontation with the ruling regime continue?

['Amarah] It will continue as long as the regime prevents the Islamic trend from exercising lawful and legal rights in accordance with the democratic rules and as long as it refuses to yield power, particularly if the masses elect the Islamic trend. If the regimes in Egypt and Algeria agree to honest elections and provide an opportunity for all diverse ideological trends, the confrontation will come to an end and violence will decline.

[Al-Mughrabi) Do you really expect either of the movements to take power?

['Amarah] That the Islamic trend is fated to take power in all Islamic countries is inescapable.

[Al-Mughrabi] What are the similarities between Egypt's and Algeria's Islamic fundamentalism?

[Amin] These two phenomena have an identical socioeconomic background particularly in the obvious features of unemployment, housing shortages, slums, corruption, high cost of living, and inflation. Another similarity lies in the just demand of both Islamic streams to establish a government that will apply Islamic shari'ah.

[Al-Mughrabi] Are there any differences between the two movements?

[Amin] There is a difference that results from Algeria's history and its bitter struggle against French colonialism. In that struggle Algeria had to raise the banner of Islam, not the banner of Algerian or pan-Arab nationalism, in order to secure the loyalty of the Berbers, who comprise more than 30 percent of the population. Consequently Algeria's Islamic appeal began before its Egyptian counterpart. Another difference is the topography of the land. Unlike Egypt, Algeria has hilly terrain that facilitates resistance and jihad operations, and subsequent escape. The third difference is that Algerians lack proficiency in the Arabic language because of French colonialism. As a result, an ordinary member of any Islamic group in Egypt knows more about Islam than the FIS leaders themselves. I realized this during a 3-hour meeting with Abbasi Madani. A third difference is the Algerians' hot temper, resulting no doubt from their long struggle against colonialism. This quality is evident in the FIS terrorists' actions against the government.

[Al-Mughrabi] Are there contacts and coordination between the two movements?

[Amin] Certainly there are. When I was ambassador in Algeria I knew perfectly well that contacts were going on and that dozens of FIS members were constantly traveling to Egypt on commercial or educational pretexts. Members of Egypt's Islamic groups were doing the same thing, and the Egyptian intelligence services were aware of that. When I noticed that these contacts were going too far, I proposed restoration of visa requirements for travel between the two countries.

[Al-Mughrabi] How would you evaluate the authorities' relationship with each group?

[Amin] Just as the two Islamic groups communicate and coordinate with each other, the Egyptian and Algerian Governments are also coordinating their stands. I believe that the two regimes are very wrong to handle this issue from the security angle alone. This method is fruitless, especially as these groups do not value life very highly and eagerly seek martyrdom in order to go to paradise. This is why I believe terrorist actions will continue.

[Al-Mughrabi] What is the dilemma of the Islamic movements in Egypt and Algeria?

[Amin] Algeria has no Christian minority like Egypt. It does not have a problem similar to the Egyptian Christians' refusal to be governed according to shari'ah. The real dilemma in both countries is the existence of an intellectual class that rejects Islamic rule. If the Islamists take power, the intellectuals will emigrate. Algerian intellectuals began to leave the country after the Islamists won the local elections in 1990.

[Al-Mughrabi] How long will the confrontation with the ruling regime continue?

[Amin] It will continue until either the regime or the Islamic trend is defeated.

[Al-Mughrabi] Do you really expect either of the two movements to take power?

[Amin] This is more likely to happen in Algeria than in Egypt, particularly as [Algerian President Lamine] Zeroual has begun reconciliation moves. In Egypt the terror will last for many more years.

Western View of Islam as Antidemocratic Criticized

NC1903140894 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Mar 94 p 8

[Article by 'Atif al-Ghamri: "The West, Islam, and the Democratic Notion"]

[Excerpts] Warnings about the danger of Islam that are spreading in the West, particularly in the United States, and the lumping of it together with Nazism and communism remain a method that has its own reasons for those who are making these charges.

This issue was tackled with total neutrality by the thinker and writer John Esposito in his book *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality*, in which he dwells on the issue of democracy. He wrote that part of the theory on the Islamic threat is the belief that Islam is historically hostile to democracy and tolerance.

The author raises a number of points that influence this theory or belief. They are:

The West's view of the Islamic Middle East is dictated by the need to guarantee its oil interests. Therefore, the West's route to stability in the Middle East does not pass through democracy but toward maintaining the status quo.

Political realities in most Islamic countries in the world have never been ready for the development of democratic traditions and institutions. European colonial rule and the national governments that came to power during the post-independence era have added to a heritage that never cared for political participation or for building strong democratic institutions.

Economic weakness, illiteracy, and high unemployment—especially among the young generations—have doubly aggravated the situation, undermined confidence in governments, and increased the attraction of any antigovernment slogans, regardless of these slogans' principles.

History has taught us that the transformation of European political principles from rule that depended on divine right to democratic countries was accompanied by a reform process and a redirection from political individualism to the democratic notion. This means that the democratic notion did not stem from the core of European society but from the reform process that spread fully to all its structures, positions, establishments, and ways of life.

Islam itself allows different interpretations. It has advocates of the democratic notion in the same way it has advocates of autocratic rule or rule by a minority. The trends that believe in democracy represent the normal course of things while the advocates of autocracy or rule by a minority are a transient and erratic phenomenon that does not have deep roots in these societies.

John Esposito in his book *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality* has thus analyzed the extent of the Western belief that Islam is hostile to democracy and tolerance.

The fact is that democracy is not a cliche or a vague expression but an active mechanism that protects the nation from the autocrat's tyranny and sets up a control system that protects the nation from imbalance, errors, and corruption. This is the proof whether a regime is legitimate or not. It is based on a plurality of views, opinions, and stands. Islam essentially agrees with this and does not conflict with it.

If there is something that creates the impression that Islam is the opposite of this, it is not Islam but those who nominally affiliate themselves to Islam, either rulers or ruled. They have tyrannized man and intentionally canceled or neutralized his role, while God Almighty has created man as a sane human being with a role that no other person can take away, with the right to participate in and influence the decision-making process. [passage omitted]

Thus, the campaign by the media and some study centers in the West to depict Islam as the companion of antidemocratic terrorism is partly based on superficiality and on picking temporary phenomena like skin rashes as health symptoms. It is also partly based on intentional and premeditated conduct, whose architects understand that hostility to democracy is the behavior of individuals or groups—both rulers and ruled—and does not lie at the heart or essence of Islam. They also understand that it is in the political interest of the West itself to maintain the current situation, even if this demands that it squanders any opportunity to revive democracy.

Libya

Tripoli Reportedly Agrees to Trial of Lockerbie Suspects

LD2203232594 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 2300 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] For the first time, Libya has announced that it has agreed that the two suspects in the Lockerbie attack be tried by the International Court of Justice of The Hague in the presence of Scottish judges. The two men are accused of involvement in the attack against the Panam plane which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988.

Sudan

Government-Opposition Peace Talks Open in Nairobi

Spokesman: Opposition To Sabotage Talks

EA1903185694 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] The official spokesman of the government peace delegation to Nairobi, Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj, has said that the

current peace talks in Nairobi opened amid encouraging signs, since all the negotiating parties are represented by high-level delegations. He said the presence of John Garang and Riak Machar would give impetus to the negotiations.

Speaking during an interview with Kenyan television, Dr. al-Hajj said the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] initiative was unique, since it included African countries adjacent to Sudan, whose problems were identical to Sudan's problems. He said the similarity would help in resolving the southern problem.

Meanwhile, in a telephone call from Nairobi, the official spokesman of the government peace delegation, Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj, said some negative developments had occurred during the 24 hours following the official inauguration of the peace talks. He said so-called opposition elements had sent representatives to Nairobi with the aim of aborting the peace talks. Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj said the government delegation had warned the IGADD group about the aims of the opposition group. He said the Kenyan side had been notified that peace was not a priority for the opposition, whose main aim was to topple the government in Khartoum, using the southerners as tools to do so. Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj said the elements who arrived in Nairobi were the same people who had attended the Washington Symposium and the London Forum under Baroness Cox.

He said the southern problem should not be mixed with the toppling of the government, and stated that the southern problem should come first. Dr. al-Hajj further urged all parties to give a chance to the IGADD countries to play their role, especially after the emergence of positive signs, with the rebel leaders attending the talks for the first time.

[Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic at 0430 GMT on 20 March adds: "His excellency appealed to the Kenyan Government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the current peace efforts did not fail and that the solution should be purely an African one. His excellency said that the members of the alliance who had arrived in Nairobi were Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi, 'Abd al-Rahman Ahmad Sa'id and al-Harith Idris. Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Hassan said the government delegation did not object to their presence provided they did so as part of the delegation of the rebel movement.

["Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj said the entry of foreign quarters or of a foreign dimension had always been at the root of failure to arrive at an agreement with the rebel movement. His excellency appealed to John Garang to throw off foreign hegemony. He said the purpose of his convening a press conference was to inform the outside world of the facts of what was happening and to confirm the eagerness of the government delegation that the negotiations should succeed."]

Peace Talks Previewed

EA2103195394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] The official peace negotiations between the Sudanese Government and the rebels will open in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi at 1000 Kenyan time, 0900 Sudanese time, under the supervision of the committee of the leaders of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Eritrea in the presence of the foreign ministers of these states. Today's session will be held at the Kenyan Foreign Ministry, while subsequent sessions will be held at a different venue which has not yet been announced.

The delegation of the Sudanese Government will be headed by Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, chairman of the Transitional National Assembly, and also includes Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, the official spokesman for the government delegation; Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi, Agnes Lokudu, Angelo Beda, Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman Ibrahim, Mathiang Malwal, Musa Sid Ahmad, Peter Charliman, and 'Abd al-Raziq al-Fadl, as well as Sudan's ambassadors to Kenya, Addis Ababa, and Uganda.

For the rebels, the delegation of Garang's faction will be headed by Salva Kiir Mayar Dit, Yusuf Kuwah, Philip Lomoding, Stephen Wani, Justin Yaak, and others.

The delegation of the United Faction will be headed by (Richard Mola) and its members comprise (Dhol Ashwal), Arok Thuon Arok, John Luk Jok, Dr. Peter Adhok, and others.

The radio correspondent in Nairobi says that the most positive indicators pointing to the success of these negotiations is the presence of the leaders of the two rebel factions, Garang and Machar, at the opening session. This has never happened before at any of the earlier rounds of talks. Their presence indicates confidence in the negotiations. Moreover, Kenya's President Moi, in his speech to the opening session, stressed the need for these negotiations to succeed so that Africa could demonstrate to the whole world its capacity to solve its problems by itself.

The current negotiations will have as their starting point the point at which the two sides arrived at in the earlier rounds at Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Abuja One and Two. It is worth noting that the Sudanese delegation led by Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah is fully mandated to sign the agreement to be reached.

IGADD Committee Issues Statement

EA2103200094 Nairobi KNA in English 1751 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Nairobi, 21 Mar (KNA)—The Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] committee of heads of state on the Sudan conflict consisting of its chairman, His Excellency Daniel arap Moi, president of the Republic of Kenya,

His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency Meles Zenawi, president of the transitional government of Ethiopia and His Excellency Isayas Afewerki, president of the state of Eritrea, held its third session on 17 March, 1994.

The IGADD committee met with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, president of the Republic of the Sudan and subsequently met the leaders of the two Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Sudanese People's Liberation Army factions, Dr. John Garang and Dr. Riak Machar, and conducted intensive consultations within itself and with the parties concerned and agreed to launch the IGADD peace talks on the Sudan.

The committee and the parties to the conflict agreed that pursuant to the mandate given by the meeting off the IGADD summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 6 and 7 September 1993, the negotiations shall take into consideration the previous efforts in search of a solution to the conflict, namely talks held in August 1989, Addis Ababa, December 1989 in Nairobi, May to June 1992 and April to May 1993 in Abuja and May 1993 in Nairobi.

The committee expressed serious concern at the continued human suffering, misery, famine and disease in the war-affected areas. It was agreed that the parties to the conflict shall allow access to relief agencies to ensure that the relief assistance is delivered to the suffering people in those areas.

The committee also expressed deep concern that the long drawn-out conflict was a threat to peace and security in the sub-region. In reference to their stated commitment to the IGADD peace initiative including their readiness to immediately embark on negotiations, the parties to the conflict agreed to send to the peace talks high-level delegations with a full mandate to negotiate. The committee called upon the parties concerned to the conflict to exercise restraint and desist from escalating hostilities, including actions that might jeopardise the IGADD initiative, in order to create a conducive atmosphere for the conduct of negotiations.

The IGADD committee decided that the standing committee of ministers of foreign affairs shall conduct the peace negotiations under the supervision of the chairman of the IGADD committee and directed the standing committee to start the negotiating process immediately.

The IGADD committee further appealed to the international community to continue supporting the initiative. [passage omitted]

IGADD-Sponsored Talks Begin

EA2203115094 Khartoum SUNA in English 1005 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Nairobi, 22 Mar (SUNA)—The first mutual talks session between the Sudanese Government delegation and the two delegations of rebel movement began here Tuesday [22 March] at the Kenyan Foreign Ministry under the sponsorship of Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) committee. Representative of Kenyan Foreign Ministry said that the meetings would be closed.

SUNA learned that every delegation will participate with six members in addition to the mediation team which including the four states' foreign ministers of IGADD. [sentence as received] It is to be noted that there is a direction to discuss the relief transportation to the war affected areas as urgent issue before start of discussing of the agenda.

Abu-Salih Rejects Autonomy

EA2203173094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has affirmed that Sudan's unity cannot be relinquished and described the call for self-determination as an attempt to fragment the country's unity. Speaking from the Foreign Ministry's regular forum today, Dr. Abu-Salih said the success of the current round of negotiations in Nairobi between the government and the rebellion basically depended on starting it from the point at which the earlier talks had ended.

His excellency referred to Sudan's participation in the Arab League meeting to be held at foreign minister level in Cairo on 26 March, saying that the participants would discuss Arab security and, for the first time, southern Sudan in the context of foreign interference there and attempts to exploit the issue for personal interests. Dr. Abu-Salih stressed that there were quarters striving to perpetuate the war in the south in the service of their interests. His excellency denied reports to the effect that Sudan lacked seriousness in solving the southern issue.

The foreign minister also referred to the visit of an envoy of the American President and a U.S. representative to Sudan expected by the end of March with the aim of studying the efforts being made to establish peace in the country.

Ambassador Mahdi Ibrahim, director of the Political Department at the Foreign Ministry, also speaking from the forum, reported that a Romanian delegation would be visiting the country with a view to developing bilateral relations.

Ambassador 'Abd-al-Hadi Siddiq, director of the Horn of Africa Department at the Foreign Ministry, reported that a Sudanese delegation would participate in the seventh African conference to be held in Kampala in April.

Government, Factions View Issues

EA2203203394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The peace talks between the Sudanese Government and the rebel factions will shortly resume this

evening in Nairobi. The official session this morning was chaired by the Kenyan foreign minister in the presence of the foreign ministers of the four Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] countries. All three negotiating parties, the Sudanese Government and the two rebel factions, attended the meeting.

It has been resolved that each of the three negotiating parties should be represented in the talks by six persons. The government delegation stated that the talks would be based on previous agendas and start from where the Abuja talks had ended. The united faction agrees with the government in this regard, but the attitude of Garang's faction towards the previous agenda is ambiguous.

[Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 22 March adds: "The peace negotiations between the government and the two rebel factions will resume in Nairobi at 1000 tomorrow with all the delegations continuing to discuss the agenda, relief, and other humanitarian issues."

["This evening's session assumed a bilateral form between ministers of the IGADD committee and the Sudanese Government delegation led by Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah. During the session, the IGADD ministers submitted an agenda derived from what had been submitted in the previous peace rounds."]

Paper Affirms Captured Arms Plane Bound for South

EA2003193094 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] The editor of the African affairs at the London-based INDEPENDENT newspaper has affirmed that the plane which carries arms being captured at Cyprus was intended to the outlaws' movement in southern Sudan, according to what diplomats and political analysts state. [words indistinct] outlaws have been receiving arms secretly and they think that United States and its alliance are the source of these arms. The British journalist goes on to say that Washington has offered the green light to one of its allies in the area to provide arms to the outlaws' movement from the American arms stores following the Gulf war. He pointed out that the plane which is now in Cyprus is a part of the campaign to overcome the lack of arms in the outlaws' hands, adding that the eyewitnesses said they had seen a number of trucks carrying arms in the borders.

Tunisia

Official Results of Elections Announced

LD2103201094 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Abdallah Kallel, the minister of state and interior minister, held a news conference this afternoon during which he announced the official results of the presidential and legislative elections. We give you elaborate details on this news conference in the following dispatch by the news department delegation which is now at the Interior Ministry premises. Colleagues Mouldi Hammami and Abdelmajid Mraihi. [passage omitted]

Kallel recalled that the election lists have been reviewed, and that the state had paid for the printing of the vote papers, and subsidized the campaigns of the parties taking part in the elections. Half of the grants allocated were disbursed as soon as the lists received the final licences, whereby all the candidate lists received about 200,000 dinars. It is worth knowing that the second half of the grant is disbursed for the benefit of the lists that receive 3 percent of the votes declared at the constituencies level, according to the stipulations of the law. [passage omitted]

The minister of state and interior minister stressed that abiding by the rule of law during all the phases of the elections had barred the way to the occurrence of breaches, apart from minor cases that had been dealt with on the spot. [passage omitted]

Here follow the official and final results with colleague Abdelmajid Mraihi:

[Mraihi] In fact, Abdallah Kallel gave in his news conference this afternoon the final official national results of the presidential and legislative elections. We recall these figures to you:

Concerning the presidential elections:
number of registered people: 3,150,612
number of voters: 2,989,880
number of invalid papers: 2,505
number of declared votes: 2,987,375
turnout percentage: 94.89 percent
percentage of valid papers: 99.91 percent

This was concerning the presidential elections. Regarding the legislative elections, the results were as follows:
number of registered people: 2,976,366
number of voters: 2,841,557
turnout percentage: 95.47
number of invalid papers: 8,686
number of valid papers: 2,832,871

The Democratic Constitutional Rally [RCD] received 2,768,667 votes, which is 97.93 percent of the total votes cast in all the constituencies. The RCD received the majority of votes in all constituencies. Therefore, it has won all 144 seats allocated to constituencies.

Regarding the lists of the rest of the parties and the independent list, they received in the constituencies where they had candidates a total number of 64,204 votes, the breakdown of which follows:

The Movement of Social Democrats: 30,660 votes.
Ettajdid [Renewal] Movement: 11,299 votes.

The Unionist Democratic Union: 9,152 votes.
The Popular Unity Party: 8,391 votes.
The Liberal Social Party: 1,892 votes.
The Progressive Socialist Party: 1,749 votes.
The independent list in Tunis-2 Constituency: 1,061 votes.
The total of these votes is: 64,204.

By dividing the total number of these votes by the number of seats allocated at the national level [as opposed to the 144 seats allocated to the constituencies, all won by the RCD], we get the election divider [as heard], which is 3,379.15. [The number of votes received by each opposition party is divided by 3,379.15 to get the number of seats allocated to each party.] On the basis of this divider, the 19 seats are allocated to the [opposition] parties as follows:

The Movement of Social Democrats: 10 seats.
Ettajdid Movement: 4 seats.
The Unionist Democratic Union: 3 seats.
The Popular Unity Movement: 2 seats.
No seats for: the Progressive Socialist Party, the Liberal Social Party, the independent list in Tunis-2 Constituency.

By referring to the results registered by the lists of each party at the constituencies level, and on the basis of the order of the percentage received by each one of these lists, seats have been allocated to each party according to Article 105B of the Electoral Code as follows:

The Movement of Social Democrats won 10 seats that have been allocated to the top of its list in the following constituencies: Tozeur, Nabeul, Tunis-2, Gabes, Jendouba, Ben Arous, Medenine, Sfax-2, Sidi Bouzid, and Ariana.

Therefore, the total of its seats is 10.

The Renewal Movement won four seats that have been allocated to the top of its list in the following constituencies: Mahdia, Tunis-2, Nabeul, and Gafsa.

The Unionist Democratic Union won three seats that have been allocated to the top of its list in the the following constituencies: Gafsa, Kebili, and Sfax-2.

The Popular Unity Party won two seats that have been allocated to the top of its list in the following constituencies: Monastir and Sousse. [passage omitted]

International Observers Satisfied With Elections

LD2003185494 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] In order to guarantee complete openness the presence of observers was ostensible at polling stations; they were observers from human rights organizations, as well as Tunisian and foreign journalists. They were all able to follow the voting process. The head of state had given his instructions to facilitate their movements in order to follow the whole voting process.

Among those who were present was the secretary general of the European Socialist Party [as heard], who made the following statement to the press before leaving Tunis.

[Begin unidentified voice recording, in French fading into Arab translation] I went to Sfax and Kairouan very early this morning to talk to voters and to those who were in charge of polling stations; I also talked to governors and to the Justice Minister. Everything went smoothly and I was very impressed with the high turnout and the calm that prevailed over the elections.

In Kairouan, I talked to the local opposition leaders, who were fighting the elections there and, as far as I am concerned, the opposition was satisfied with the progress of the elections. [end recording]

Ettajdid Party Member Arrested for Criticizing Elections

LD2203135594 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Excerpt] In Tunisia, the official results of last Sunday's elections have been published. [passage omitted]

A member of the executive committee of the former Tunisian Communist Party, the Ettajdid Party, was arrested yesterday by security forces for apparently expressing criticism about the elections. Boujema Remili, a candidate in the legislative elections, however, denies having criticized the way the elections were held. Mr. Remili was still in custody late this morning.

Oman

Jordanian King Husayn Carries Out Visit

Husayn, Qabus Hold Talks

JN2103194294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] The Jordanian side, led by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Omani side, led by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of fraternal Oman, held a meeting this afternoon and exchanged views on various current Arab and international issues.

The two Arab leaders also discussed the special relations between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the fraternal Sultanate of Oman. His majesty the king and His Majesty Sultan Qabus then held a closed meeting.

Husayn Concludes Visit

JN2303092394 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Salalah, 23 Mar (WAKH)—King Husayn of Jordan left Salalah today at the end of a private three-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

The Jordanian monarch held several meetings with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id in which bilateral relations and means to bolster them were reviewed, in addition to current developments in the Arab and international arenas and issues of mutual concern.

Qatar

Jordanian King Husayn Arrives on Visit

JN2303113794 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Doha, 23 Mar (WAKH)—King Husayn of Jordan arrived in Doha from Muscat this morning on a two-day visit to the State of Qatar.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, led those who received the Jordanian monarch. He was also received by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister, ministers, and ranking officials.

Yemen

Northern Forces Fire Warning Shots at South Fighter Plane

NC2203102994 Paris AFP in English 1016 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Sanaa, March 22 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni forces fired warning shots at a fighter plane from the rival south on Monday as it flew low overhead, northern sources said Tuesday.

The armies of the former North and South Yemens have not merged since the two countries unified in May 1990 and there have been frequent clashes between the sides in recent months.

The plane was not hit as warning shots were fired as it overflew units from the northern al-'Amaliqah [Giants] brigade based [in] Abyan, in southern Yemen, the sources said.

The country's rival leaders have been involved in a long running feud, and tension has risen with the deployment of the rival armies in each other's territory.

The shooting happened a few hours before a mutual news blackout on such incidents was imposed by the two sides.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his ruling General People's Congress from the north have been at loggerheads with Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid's Yemeni Socialist Party from the poorer south for seven months.

Military Committee Tries To Restore 'Normality'

JN2203182994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The Military Committee, headed by committee chairman Staff Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Salah, has resumed meetings and visits to camps and complexes in the Shabwah Governorate to clear the atmosphere and restore normality.

During these visits, the committee met with Shabwah Governorate officials, Shabwah axis commanders, the security director, representatives of parties and political organizations, the protests committee in the governorate, and residents of the city of 'Ataq.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', Staff Col. 'Ali Muhammad Salah, chairman of the Military Committee, said matters had calmed down, that the situation was normal, and that the Military Committee found that everybody was eager to see a normal situation. He pointed out that the Military Committee will continue to carry out its duties, appealing to everyone to cooperate to allow it to carry its duties successfully.

Reportedly Brokers 'Ataq Troop Pullout

JN2203210794 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 22 Mar 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Rival Yemeni parties are reported to have agreed to pull out their troops from the provincial capital 'Ataq in the southern oil-producing region of Shabwah.

The Jordanian-Omani military committee helping to disengage the two sides' armies said an agreement had been reached to withdraw troops from and around the city. A statement by the committee said all groups around the city would return to their bases.

Jordanian, Omani, and Yemeni officers, along with the American and French military attaches in Yemen, formed the committee after the country's two main political rivals signed a reconciliation agreement in Amman on February 20th.

GPC Statement Accuses al-'Attas of 'Secessionism'

PM2203101494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Mar 94 p1

[Report by 'Abdallah Hammudah in London and unattributed report from Sanaa: "Sanaa Accuses al-'Attas of Secessionism"]

[Excerpt] Statements made by [Prime Minister] Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas have greatly upset Sanaa. Observers say that the General People's Congress [GPC] has given these statements more significance than they deserve and have understood them to "mean the removal of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih" who himself has launched a similar attack on al-'Attas. A statement attributed to a GPC information source said that al-'Attas is the one "who should be removed."

That was a part of Sanaa's violent reaction to press statements attributed to the Yemeni prime minister in which he said that "there are some political symbols which must be removed and actions which must stop if the Yemeni Government is to be able to carry out its duties."

The GPC statement said that "removal of al-'Attas would be in the interest of stability in Yemen because he has been an obstacle in the way of development projects and in the way of the efforts to build a modern Yemeni state since the reunification of the homeland on 22 May 1990, and he has discharged his duties with a narrow partisan mentality to serve selfish and personal interests." It added that he (al-'Attas) "is one of the main renegade and secessionist elements in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and one of those who engineered the current political crisis."

It should be recalled that al-'Attas had criticized the attitude of Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his interference in government affairs by issuing direct orders to ministers and officials and clearly ignoring the prime minister. He also addressed a message to him—unprecedented anywhere in the world—urging him to face his responsibilities as head of state on such matters as smuggling and counterfeit foreign and Yemeni currency, and to take serious measures against the influential figures and centers of power which protect terrorists and outlaws. [passage omitted]

YSP Officials Asked To Leave Sanaa for Security Reasons

PM2203141194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Mar 94 p1

[Reports by Naji al-Harazi in 'Ataq and Hammud Munsir in Sanaa: "The Yemeni Leadership Asks the Socialist Party and Opposition Leaders To Leave Sanaa"]

[Excerpt] Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] officials have confirmed that the Yemeni leadership has asked some of the YSP leaders still in Sanaa as well as a number of opposition leaders to leave Sanaa "for security reasons."

They added that Interior Minister Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil was instructed to inform Yahya al-Shami and Fish Resources Minister Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, both of whom are members of the YSP's Political Bureau, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Quddus al-Midwahi, who is one of the leaders of the Nasirite Unionist Organization, to leave Sanaa. They are all members of the Political Forces Dialogue Committee.

A YSP spokesman said that this "meant that people were being expelled from their own homeland and that the way was being paved for further developments later on." Sources in Sanaa stressed that dismissal of Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas's cabinet and formation of a new cabinet under the chairmanship of another YSP leader was being seriously considered because of the continuing political battle and exchange of accusations between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Engineer al-'Attas. [passage omitted]

Presidential Council Discusses Crisis, Salih Visits

JN2203140294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The Presidential Council today held a meeting under its chairman, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. It studied many national issues and developments as well as topics pertaining to enhancing the construction and development efforts and activating the state's agencies in various fields.

The Council was briefed on the outcome of the visits paid by brother Lt. Gen. Salih to Egypt and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as well as the results of the talks he held with his brothers, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of Egypt and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE. These talks dealt with developments in our country in light of the signing of the accord document and the efforts being made to implement this document.

The Presidential Council voiced satisfaction with the outcome of both visits and the fraternal understanding shown by the brothers in Egypt and the UAE concerning the situation our country is experiencing. The Council also expressed its eagerness to do whatever it can to help our country circumvent the challenges it is facing as a

result of the political crisis and to enhance the march of unity and democracy in our country.

The Council was also briefed on the contacts the brother chairman held with a number of fraternal Arab leaders. These contacts dealt with developments in our country and sisterly bilateral relations. Moreover, the Council was briefed on the recent activities and meetings held by the brother members of the Presidential Council.

The Council studied many agenda topics pertaining to efforts to help build the state by various government agencies and their attempts to circumvent the current lax state of affairs caused by political crisis, especially in terms of fulfilling of their duties toward the policy statement on whose basis the government won the House of Representatives' confidence.

The Council stressed the need for the government to assume its responsibilities in addressing the economic situation, improving the living conditions of citizens, and easing their suffering as a result of the rise in prices. It also stressed the need to activate the security forces to carry out their duties in terms of fighting the manifestations that breach security, combating all forms of crime, arresting criminals and bring them to justice, entrenching stability and tranquility in the community, punishing those who fail to fulfill their duty, obliging the government employees to [words indistinct] their work and fulfill their duties in order to serve the citizens, taking measures [words indistinct] way of supervision and accountability, and implementing legal deterrent measures against those who violate the law.

The Presidential Council also stressed the importance of quickly reuniting the constitutional and executive bodies to carry out their duties toward implementing the accord document, which was signed in the Jordanian capital, Amman, on 10 Ramadan. The document was signed in order to achieve the public interest and circumvent both the political crisis and its regrettable repercussions, which have harmed the interests of both the homeland and its citizens, in a way that will safeguard unity and democracy and mobilize all the national potentials to build a modern Yemeni state.

The Council also discussed a host of issues and topics on the national level. It made the necessary decisions and gave instructions on them.

Council To Meet in Sanaa 28 Mar

JN2203211994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The Political Forces Dialogue Committee held a meeting this morning under the chairmanship of brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd- al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council.

At the beginning of the meeting, the minutes of the previous session were read and endorsed with remarks. The committee then reviewed the results of the subcommittees' work. The committee expressed satisfaction with the political leadership's response to the decisions to stop media campaigns by official organs, affirming that the media should return as it was before the crisis and that all campaigns by all official media organs should stop. The committee continued its discussion of the issue of reunifying the institutions in light of the proposals reached by the committee formed for this purpose.

Following consultations with the competent quarters, it has been agreed that the Council of Ministers will meet in the presence of all its members on Wednesday and Thursday [23 and 24 March] in Aden. The Council of Ministers will then meet in Ta'izz and then in Sanaa.

Following consultations, it has been agreed that the Presidential Council will hold a meeting in Sanaa on Monday [28 March] to prepare a working agenda for the meeting of all its members.

The Dialogue Committee will continue its meetings tomorrow, Wednesday [23 march] in the economic and trade capital Aden to continue discussion of topics on agenda.

Assassination Attempt Reportedly Wounds Defense Minister

PM2203164394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Mar 94 p 2

[Text] Amman, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—According to informed Iraqi sources, the governors of Ninawa and Babil were recently dismissed from their posts in the course of a mobilization process which began a month ago throughout Iraq.

The sources said that Ninawa Governor (for less than a year) Staff Major General 'Abd-al-Wahid Shinan Al Ribat was relieved of his post after a clash between, on the one hand, butchers and grocers in the Mosul market and, on the other, a Special Forces unit which tried to force them to cut their prices after the wave of disturbances which had swept Mosul. He was also blamed for the increase in the number of explosions and assassination attempts in the town.

Babil Governor Lieutenant General Tali' Khalil al-Rahim al-Duri was relieved of his post, which he had held for three years after the Gulf war. He was the target of a press campaign accusing him of mismanagement. The fate of the two governors is not known, and there have been no appointments replacing them in these posts.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi "Free Revolutionary Officers Movement" [IFROM] has revealed that there was an attempt to assassinate Iraqi Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid 9 March.

In a statement, a copy of which was received by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, the movement said that one of its units carried out the operation, in which 'Ali Hasan al-Majid sustained leg and hand injuries and his aide, Police Major Salih Arjah, and two guards were killed outside the Iraqi defense minister's home in Baghdad.

The statement said that the nucleus of the IFROM was formed before Saddam Husayn's forces invaded Kuwait and that it includes a group of senior officers and soldiers, including prominent officers in important positions.

The statement added that 136 IFROM officers and soldiers have been martyred in operations against the regime's forces and that in the first two months of this year it distributed thousands of antiregime leaflets in the camps of al-Rashid, al-Taji, al-Suwayrah, al-Rashidiyah, and Khan Bani-Sa'id.

It urged the Iraqi opposition forces to unite and end their political rivalry, and it stressed that the desired change should emanate from within Iraq and from within the Armed Forces.

It also said that it strives for a truly democratic regime in Iraq, for Iraq's return to the Arab fold, for fraternal and good-neighborly relations with the neighboring states, and for the reconstruction of a strong Iraqi economy.

SAIRI: 2 Government Battalions Join Opposition

LD1903165594 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] Sar Dasht, Kordestan Prov, March 19, IRNA—Two Iraqi battalions along with their equipment joined the opposition forces in Northern Iraq, a statement by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) said here today.

The statement said the battalions had been stationed between the regions under the control of the self-declared government of Northern Iraq and Chamchamal region in the Karkuk Province.

There are six officers among the forces, possibly affiliated to the Iraqi First Corps, the statement said, adding that due to the harsh economic conditions and political isolation of Iraq, the number of the personnel deserting the army is increasing in the country.

According to the sources close to the SAIRI, the Iraqi forces would probably intensify their military pressures on the northern and southern population, in addition to increasing their threats against Kuwait on the coming days.

Kurds Accuse Iran of Destroying Villages

NC2003113894 Paris AFP in English 1059 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, March 20, (AFP)—Two villages have been virtually destroyed in recent renewed shelling by Tehran of Iranian Kurds sheltering in northern Iraq, Iranian Kurdish leaders said Sunday.

General Secretary of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI) Mostafa Hejri accused Iran of "killing and attacking Kurds here in the same way as in Iran."

He told AFP from his headquarters in Kou Senjaq, northern Iraq, that in the past month "two villages have been nearly totally destroyed by Iranian shelling," although there had been casualties [sentence as received].

Hejri added that Tehran had only stopped its attacks on the Iranian Kurdish population during winter.

Kurdish security forces added that an Iranian, who was active in the Iranian Kurdish movement had been killed in al-Sulaymaniyah, in the east of Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, several days ago.

Northern Iraq passed to Kurdish control, with the backing of the allied forces, after the end of the Gulf war in February 1991.

The KDPI, the main Kurdish opposition party in Iran, has several bases in northern Iraq close to the Iranian

border, and in the past there has been intermittent shelling of the border areas.

Pro-Government Kurd Party Pledges Support for Saddam

JN2103193o94 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] The Political Bureau of the [pro-government] Kurdistan Democratic Party has said that our Kurdish people, whom leader President Saddam Husayn has loved and for whom he has done his best to vindicate their legitimate national rights, will remain loyal to the hands that have shown them generosity and nobility.

In a cable sent to leader President Saddam Husayn on the Nauruz festivities, the Political Bureau added that the Kurdistan Democratic Party seizes the opportunity granted by this noble occasion to extend to his excellency the leader president the most sublime, sincere, and heartfelt congratulations, and beseeches God Almighty to go grant him continued good health, to protect him as an asset for all free people, and to render the Nauruz a feast on which the will of the well-meaning Kurds will triumph against the forces of agentry and deception associated with the United States, the enemy of mankind. The clique of agents and traitors has flouted all honorable values. It is indifferent to the harm caused to the Kurdistan Region and the Iraqi people, and to the injustice and wrong done them.

The Political Bureau of the Kurdistan Democratic Party added: On Nauruz, Jawal Haddath, a righteous son of the Kurdish people, brandished his sword in the face of the tyrant Izdahak al-Dahhak to end his tyranny and bring about security and stability throughout Kurdistan. At present, you are the hero of the age. You have set an example for free men of the world. And here you are brandishing your sword, the sword of right, in the face of the unscrupulous tyrants, atheistic infidels, and all misled agents and traitors in defense of not only the Iraqi people, but also tortured humanity and free people of the world, who are suffering at the hands of the tyrannical ones. You have triumphed against them. Hence, the eternal annals of history will document your bright and heroic feats.

The cable went on to say: It is true that the agents have rendered the situation in Kurdistan intolerable due to the lawlessness and sabotage they have caused to serve their masters. But, it remains to be said that your Kurdish people will continue to honor their pledge. They will remain sleepless until Kurdistan restores its security and stability and kicks out traitors and their masters so that it may return to the laps of the homeland, joyful and proud. The day of victory is imminent. Neither the unfair embargo, nor the machinations of colonialists, or the treason of traitors are capable of bringing your Iraqi people, be they Arabs or Kurds, to their knees. The Iraqi people will continue to hold their heads high. The banners of pride, glory, and dignity will continue to flutter throughout Iraq as long as you are its leader.

Baghdad Protests 8-16 Mar Airspace 'Violations'

JN2103181294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League that U.S., British, and French aircraft continue to violate its airspace, noting that this seriously jeopardizes its security and sovereignty.

In a letter addressed to the Arab League secretary general yesterday, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that these aircraft continued on 8-16 March to violate Iraqi airspace, flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. They carried out 321 hostile air sorties during the aforementioned period.

A list attached to the letter detailed these airspace violations.

Rabin Said Rejecting UN Presence in Hebron

TA2203214694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Studio talk between anchorman Hayim Yavin and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Text] [Yavin] We now return to the political process. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik is in the studio. The consultations between the prime minister and the delegation which returned today from Tunis are continuing. Is there any chance of either a summit meeting or the resumption of the talks? Are there any new decisions, Gadi?

[Sukenik] Yes. The consultations are still under way here and in Tunis but the picture that is forming appears to be quite positive. Rabin received an optimistic briefing from the members of the Israeli delegation. Here are the facts: Rabin apparently agrees to an international presence in Hebron as demanded by the Palestinians, as well as to the immediate deployment of a Palestinian police force. The quantities, weapons, and all the other details still have to be worked out tomorrow in Cairo. Rabin definitely rejects an armed UN presence in Hebron and insists that everything remain under Israeli control.

The delegation, composed of the same members—Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq, Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, Prime Minister Rabin's adviser Jacques Neriya, and legal adviser Yo'el Zinger—will leave tomorrow afternoon for Cairo. Most importantly, the Norwegians are at this very moment sending out invitations to a conference scheduled to take place in Cairo on 24 March for all the countries that are supposed to be contributing to the autonomy institutions. If everything goes smoothly and rapid progress is made in the discussions, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will attend this conference and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will also most likely show up. The two men will hold a summit meeting and then practical negotiations on the implemention of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho will resume at the beginning of next week.

[Yavin] Thank you, Gadi Sukenik.

Rabin: Reservations Over Curfew on Hebron Arabs

TA2303114194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he continues to have reservations about the situation in Hebron, where 120,000 Arabs remain under curfew because of 415 settlers. However, he said, the question of whether or not to continue the closure hinged solely on security considerations and the need to prevent any Jewish bloodshed.

Rabin told the Labor Knesset faction that the government would reach a decision regarding the evacuation of the Jewish settlers from central Hebron on the basis of security considerations, not public opinion polls. Rabin added that the support voiced by right-wing elements for Dr. Goldstein's crime had been widely reported in the international media. Today, Mr. Rabin said, we do not look as nice as we thought in the eyes of the world. The prime minister stressed that Israel had no other negotiating partner among the Palestinians except Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO.

As for the situation in Lebanon, Prime Minister Rabin said that yesterday's ambush in the security zone was laid by members of Ahmad Jibril's PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command] and not by the Hizballah. The identity of those who launched the katyusha rockets that landed in the western Galilee yesterday, however, remained unknown.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir added that during the session, it was reported that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] was currently completing its plans for new security arrangements in Hebron and in the Cave of the Patriarchs. When these plans are completed they will brought before the political echelon for approval. One of the aims is to prevent Jewish extremists in Hebron and Qiryat Arba' from harassing Arabs, as has been the case in the past.

Peres Comments on Hebron Residents' Security

TA2303115594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the government would publicly announce its decision when it decided whether or not to evacuate the Jews from Hebron. The government does not just have intentions, it also reaches decisions, Peres said. The foreign minister added that there is only one address for the security of all Hebron residents, both Arabs and Jews, and that is the Israeli Government. Minister Peres was speaking at a political debate in the Knesset.

Peres on Resumption of Talks, Settler Issue

NC2203194094 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by MBC Correspondent Mahir Shalabi on 22 March; place not given—recorded, in English with superimposed Arabic translation]

[Text] [Shalabi] The Palestinians in Tunis say that your delegation, which visited Tunis recently, did not make any new proposals that could help the resumption of negotiations.

[Peres] I am not sure that they have said something like this. I hope the talks will resume. This is a beginning, and we are all in a difficult situation. But I believe that through a common effort we can continue the negotiations and establish a new reality.

[Shalabi] The Palestinians are saying that the Israelis are proposing setting up a security belt around settlements in Hebron instead of finding another solution.

[Peres] I do not think so. I believe that the Israeli delegation said that while negotiating over the measures we need to guarantee the security of all citizens—Arabs and Jews—and we are ready to hold talks with the PLO over this matter. However, the issue of the settlers is a purely Israeli matter. This matter is the responsibility of the Israeli Government and it will make the appropriate decision.

[Shalabi] In your opinion, what are the factors that will help the resumption of the negotiations?

[Peres] I believe that we need to do two things. The first is to take measures to provide security for everyone in Hebron. We will take such measures. The second thing is to quickly conclude negotiations over Gaza and Jericho in a very short period of time. Thus, we would be showing the Palestinians and ourselves a new reality, not only a new declaration. I hope that within a few weeks the Palestinians' autonomy in Gaza and Jericho will be a reality.

[Shalabi] Do you think that if you reach an agreement with the PLO you will be able to implement it before 13 April?

[Peres] It all depends on when we start negotiations because if we want to know when they will end, we need to know when they will begin. However, it is not far away from that date. At any rate, the talks will resume tomorrow.

Delegation Leaves for Talks With PLO in Cairo

TA2303133494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] An Israeli delegation—headed by Major General Amnon Shahaq, deputy chief of staff, and Uri Savir, Foreign Ministry director general—left for Cairo an hour ago for meetings with PLO officials. On the agenda will be security arrangements for the Palestinians in Hebron, and the resumption of the negotiations on Gaza and Jericho. This was reported by our correspondent Yo'el Nir. The delegation is due back in Israel tomorrow.

Opposition Meets Rabin, Seeks Steps To Protect Jews

TA2303120694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] The leaders of the opposition factions have requested to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. They wish to discuss jointly agreed-upon steps to guarantee the safety and well-being of the Jewish settlers in Hebron in an attempt to prevent a rift among the Israeli public.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu even proposed that Rabin join the opposition factions in agreeing on a practical plan to protect the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Chief Rabbi Bars Muslims From Temple Mount

TA2303062994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Israel's Chief Rabbi Baqshi Doron has decreed that the entry of Muslims to the Temple Mount should be prevented. The rabbi also ruled that Muslim tourism to the site should not be encouraged.

Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that the halakhic edict stated that Muslim tourists endangered the existence of the Jewish people in their country.

Meanwhile, Waqf officials in Jerusalem said they would continue to bar Israelis and tourists from entering the Temple Mount. Israel Police, on the other hand, said that it was preventing the entry of Israelis and tourists out of operational considerations. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that representatives from the police and the Jerusalem Municipality met yesterday with Waqf officials on the matter.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 23 March in a page 14 report by Shlomo Naqdimon reports that "Former Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren yesterday said that 'Masada could repeat itself in Hebron.'" The paper notes that Rabbi Goren "warned that the evacuation of the Jewish settlers from Hebron would end in bloodshed." Goren added that "the Jews in Hebron must hang on by their nails. They must on no account agree to be evacuated. I am hereby declaring that I will stand at their side when this happens. I am ready to give my life together with them and to resist any attempt to evacuate them." YEDI'OT AHARONOT goes on to explain that "in Masada, the defenders of the Jewish fortress preferred to commit mass suicide rather than surrender to the Roman conqueror."]

Court Extends Golan Settler's Detention

TA2003080594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] The Nazareth District Court has extended the administrative detention of Mikha'el Ben-Horin, from the settlement of Nov on the Golan Heights, by two months. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the defense minister had asked the court for a three-month extension.

Several dozen people are currently demonstrating outside the courthouse and carrying placards denouncing the government.

Kakh Activist Given 12-Month Suspended Sentence

TA2303110594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] A Jerusalem court has sentenced Kakh activist No'am Federman to a 12-month suspended sentence for a period of three years. Federman was convicted of creating a public disturbance approximately three years ago.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the judge said that the severity of the charges warranted a prison term, but the prosecution settled for a suspended sentence.

Report on Kakh Activity Against Arabs, Others

TA1803175494 Tel Aviv HA'IR in Hebrew 18 Mar 94 p 27

[Report by Nicole Krau]

[Excerpts] Last Sunday [13 March], when the decision to define all right-wing movements as terror organizations was announced, Kakh's Tel Aviv branch closed down. The branch had been located on Hanegev Street in the old Central Bus Station in the past 12 years, having moved there from Dizengoff. "We seem to be closed," one of the movement's leading figures says, "but in practice, the branch's entire activity has been moved to a safe apartment in downtown Tel Aviv, in which an activist family lives. The location of the branch will be changed occasionally to prevent exposure by the security forces."

The activist's remarks reveal that Kakh activists use five safe apartments in the Tel Aviv area. The apartments are situated mainly in south Tel Aviv, Hatiqva neighborhood, Bat Yam, and Ramat 'Amidar in Ramat Gan. The activist adds that the movement has hundreds of activists and supporters in the Dan District. According to Kakh activists, Kakh and EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem] leaders and the heads of Kahana Hay have recently discussed consolidation. [passage omitted]

One of the Kakh leaders in the Dan District has said that the movement would suspend its activities until the High Court of Justice rules on the movement's appeal against the orders outlawing it. They plan later "to start taking care of the Arab problem in Yafo." At first they will distribute in Yafo leaflets demanding that the Arab residents leave the city, and later they will proceed to damage property. "We will burn their cars and houses, but we will not attack people for the time being," he said.

In addition, the Kakh people plan to act against the moderate right wing and the left-wing organizations in the city and to attack Meretz centers and the Labor building. The activist says that reporters, who attack the movement in media, will receive life threats.

According to Kakh activists, they expect to receive weapons soon. They maintain that the weapons will be smuggled in by movement activists who are due to immigrate to Israel from the United States—people whose political views are unknown to the security services. "We are defined as a terrorist organization, and as such, we have nothing to lose. We feel as if we were ETZEL and LEHI [pre-state underground organizations], and we will use their methods in our operations," the activist sums up. The police say they have not as yet reorganized their approach to the Kakh personnel. For now, the issue will be addressed by the National Unit for Serious Crimes Investigation.

Inquiry Commission Hears Hebron Arabs' Testimony

TA2203162294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The Shamgar Commission today heard testimony from Palestinians who were praying in the Cave of the Patriarchs at the time of the massacre. Three of them claimed that they had heard shots fired from more than one direction, and suggested that Barukh Goldstein did not carry out the killings by himself. One of them said he heard the sound of hand grenades, as well as automatic gunfire. A fourth witness said soldiers prevented people from leaving the cave after the massacre and even raised their weapons, but the worshipers ignored them and went on their way.

Security Forces Detain Hamas Suspects in Strip

TA1903061594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 19 Mar 94

[Text] In al-Shaykh Radwan in Gaza City security forces last night arrested 30 residents during an operation searching for members of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] military wing 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam. Twenty-four of the detainees were released after a short period of time, while the remaining six are being investigated for aiding members of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam.

In disturbances in the territories yesterday, 16 Arab residents were wounded by Israeli Army fire.

Media Report Serious Incidents, Violent Clashes

Arab Woman Tries To Stab Policeman

TA2203173494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] At the entrance to the Shu'fat refugee camp north of Jerusalem, an Arab woman tried to stab a border policeman with a kitchen knife this afternoon. The policeman was not hurt, and others overcame the woman and arrested her.

In the Ramallah area, shots were fired at an Israeli car this afternoon. Nobody was hurt, but when the driver reached an Army roadblock he saw that two bullets had hit the car.

In clashes in Nabulus today, soldiers shot and wounded five Palestinians. One of them was a six-month-old baby who was seriously hurt.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 22 March adds that "four local Arabs were wounded in Hebron today by soldiers' gunfire. Two of them are reported in serious condition."]

Two Workers Stabbed by 'Terrorists'

TA2203210994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Two Israeli workers were stabbed a short while ago in Kibbutz Nahal 'Oz by one or several terrorists who infiltrated into the kibbutz. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that one of the terrorist attacked the two workers with a knife in a trailer on the outskirts of the kibbutz. Another worker in an adjacent trailer heard their cries for help, pulled out his gun, and captured one terrorist. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Border Police forces are searching the area in an attempt to locate a second terrorist.

One of the men was seriously wounded and taken to the Soroka Medical Center. He is currently being operated on. The second man sustained light to moderate injuries.

Pregnant Woman Killed, Dozens Wounded

TA2203211594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Numerous serious incidents took place in the territories today. Palestinian sources reported that dozens of people were wounded. At several locations, including Hebron, the clashes took place when the Army removed the curfew for several hours in order to permit local residents to buy provisions and youths began hurling rocks at the soldiers.

A pregnant woman was apparently killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire in Hebron. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the incident. A girl from the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip died from her wounds this morning after being wounded in a shooting incident with soldiers several days ago.

Jew Shot, Badly Wounded by Arab

TA2303062494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] A 40-year-old Jewish man was shot this morning at Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City. He is in critical condition. The man, a guard at an East Jerusalem office, was walking to work when an Arab resident snatched his revolver near Damascus Gate. The Arab then shot him in the head. The wounded man was rushed to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital.

Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that large police forces have closed off the area and are searching for the assailant.

Three 'Terrorists' Killed in Hebron

TA2303143094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Since yesterday afternoon the security forces have been doing battle with several terrorists who barricaded themselves in a house in Hebron. During the exchanges of fire, several terrorists were hit, but their condition is not yet known. During the fire exchanges yesterday two Hebron women were wounded. According to an initial IDF [Israel Defense Forces] investigation, the women were hit by terrorists' gunfire, rather than by the IDF. One of the women was seriously wounded and died a short time later in Hebron's 'Aliya Hospital. The other woman was slightly wounded in the head and was evacuated to a hospital in Jerusalem after being treated on the spot by an IDF doctor. From the IDF's investigation it transpired that the two were hit by the terrorists' gunfire. Hebron is under curfew and the area was declared a closed military zone.

Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq has just told the Shamgar Commission that the 18 hour-long battle with the terrorists in Hebron has just ended. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that to the best of his knowledge five IDF soldiers were slightly wounded in the fire exchanges. They were evacuated for treatment at a Jerusalem hospital. The bodies of three terrorists were found in the building in which they were barricaded in the al-Taraq neighborhood in Hebron; Kalashnikov rifles and a Glilon submachine gun were found near the bodies. During the battle the IDF directed antitank missiles and machine gun fire at the building. Last night the area was lit with flares; early this morning a large bulldozer was brought to the area to demolish one of the buildings in which the terrorists barricaded themselves. The bulldozer broke down and it was necessary to bring in another bulldozer this afternoon to recover the first one. The terrorists attacked the soldiers operating the bulldozer, and at that point the IDF forces stormed the building and killed the terrorists.

Our correspondent notes that in during the operation the management of the al-Muhtasib children's hospital—which is located near the building concerned—complained that soldiers entered the hospital premises and that the children hospitalized were greatly alarmed by the explosions and gunfire.

U.S. Envoy Ross Arrives in Amman for Brief Visit

Begins Talks With Prime Minister

JN2203184894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] U.S. envoy Dennis Ross arrived in Amman tonight and began his talks with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. More details in the following report by our correspondent for political affairs Salim 'Ali Dhiyab:

[Begin Dhiyab recording] The Middle East is witnessing extensive and large-scale activities to end the stalemate in the Arab-Israeli talks following the Israeli massacre in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque.

A short while ago, Jordanian-U.S. talks began at the Prime Ministry following the arrival in Amman of the U.S. coordinator of the Arab-Israel talks, who began a brief visit to Jordan as part of a regional tour.

The Jordanian side, which is chaired by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, includes Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani, Finance Minister Sami Gammuh, the deputy chairman of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, a number of advisers, and the members of the Jordanian side to the peace talks. The U.S. side, which is chaired by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process includes members of the U.S. delegation and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Ross' regional tour aims at reviving the Arab-Israeli talks, which were suspended by the Arab parties involved in the peace talks. Observers also believe that Ross will seek to explain the recent American stand vis-a-vis the Security Council resolution and U.S. abstention from voting in favor of some of its paragraphs.

Ross, who arrived in Amman this evening, was received by Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani and the U.S. ambassador in Amman. [end recording]

Ross, al-'Anani Speak to Reporters

JN2203205494 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 22 Mar 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Special Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross left Amman tonight after talks on the peace process, bilateral ties, and the siege of al-'Aqabah.

Ross met earlier tonight with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, which was followed by bilateral talks between the Jordanian and U.S. delegations.

Before leaving Amman, Ross said his talks were good and businesslike, and that he expects the peace talks to resume soon.

Speaking to reporters at Amman airport, Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani said tonight's talks also covered the resumption of Jordanian-Israeli bilateral talks in Washington, as well as economic ties.

[Begin recording] [Al-'Anani] We had very good, serious, and businesslike discussions today. We covered a range of topics. Mr. Ross was kind enough to give us an update on the developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. We also dealt with the issue of bilateral issues, like sanctions in al-'Aqabah, and also our economic bilateral relations. Well, we think that some progress is going to take place very soon, and we are going to see tangible results. We also had a discussion of how to proceed next on the negotiations, and how to invigorate the Jordanian-Israeli track when we meet in Washington, hopefully in April.

[Unidentified reporter] I would like to ask about the Israelis and Palestinians. They said that they agreed on international armed presence in Hebron, Gaza, and Jericho. They said that the United States and Norway agreed to participate in this. Could you elaborate?

[Ross] Well, the discussions that they had covered a number of areas, including trying to reach understandings on security-related issues, and also looking at how one can move rapidly to conclude the negotiations and move towards an implementation. I am not going to go into the specifics of what they are working on right now, because I think their discussions are ongoing.

[Reporter] I would like to ask you about the siege of al-'Aqabah. It is affecting Jordan tremendously. Are you going, and do you have any plans to lift the embargo, when?

[Ross] Well, we had a discussion. As the minister said, we had a discussion on that. We have been exchanging views on that. And we are going to be working on that as best we can. [end recording]

Further on Ross-al-Majali Talks

JN2303064994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Randah Habib report from Amman]

[Text] In his talks with U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross, Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali concentrated on the need to lift the naval siege clamped on the port of al-'Aqabah three years ago as this siege is adversely affecting Jordan's economy. This was emphasized to our station by an authoritative source, who added that the talks also dealt with the U.S. position on Security Council Resolution 904 on the Hebron massacre. Jordan asked Washington to explain its abstention from voting on the paragraph which stated that Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories and whether this abstention constitutes a change in the U.S. position on the holy city.

The House of Representatives strongly condemned the U.S. position on Jerusalem and denounced what it termed the continuous U.S. aggression on the Arab nation. It asked the Jordanian Government not to return to the negotiations before the siege of al-'Aqabah is actually lifted and so announced at the Security Council. The deputies said this siege is aimed at bringing pressure to bear on Jordan with all possible means to deprive it of its free decision vis-a-vis all issues of concern to the nation.

Minister Comments on King's Visit to Oman

JN2203154394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, by unidentified correspondent in Salalah; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Oman is important. Would you please comment on this visit?

[Al-Hasan] I want to reiterate the deep and distinguished Jordanian-Omani relations that have been reinforced by His Majesty King Husayn and his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. As you know, these relations are becoming stronger with time. These relations, which are fraternal in terms of dealing and frank in terms of coordination and consultation, have become an example for other countries. King Husayn's visit to his brother Sultan Qabus falls within this framework. These relations are based on the existing fraternal relations between the two leaders and two people. I can say these relations are strong, firm, and continuous. The two countries are determined to strengthen these relations on all levels.

I can also say that the high level of consultation and coordination will include many bilateral issues and many Arab, regional, and international issues. King Husayn's visit represents a qualitative move that will strength Jordanian-Omani relations.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency: Today, you met with the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs. What took place during the meeting?

[Al-Hasan] I held a fraternal meeting with my brother His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs. We reviewed our good and distinguished bilateral relations on the political, economic, and cultural levels. We discussed a number of measures to provide momentum to these relations, to develop them, and to activate our bilateral agreements. I also discussed with the minister a number of Arab, regional, and international issues of mutual interest. Thank you.

[Correspondent] Thank you, sir.

Previews King's Visit to Qatar

JN2203200594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Tomorrow, His Majesty King Husayn will begin a visit to the fraternal State of Qatar, during which he will hold talks with his brother His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, on the regional state of affairs, means of promoting Arab solidarity, and the latest developments in the peace process in the aftermath of the recent passage of UN Security Council Resolution 904.

His Majesty King Husayn today continued his talks with his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman. The talks addressed bilateral ties and the Arab state of affairs.

Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Oman marks a significant historical juncture and a qualitative leap in inter-Arab ties. On his talks today with the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, al-Hasan said in a telephone interview:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Samawi] Sir, what are the most important results of the talks held between His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, if you please?

[Al-Hasan] On this good occasion, I would like to reiterate the deep and distinguished Jordanian-Omani relations, which have been reinforced by His Majesty King Husayn and his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. As you know, these relations are becoming stronger with time. These relations, which are fraternal in terms of dealing and frank in terms of coordination and consultation, have become an example for other countries. King Husayn's visit to his brother Sultan Qabus falls within this framework. These relations are based on the existing fraternal relations between the two leaders and two peoples. I can say that these relations are strong, firm, and continuous.

[Samawi] Sir, his majesty the king will tomorrow begin an official visit to the fraternal State of Qatar. In your view, how important is this visit? What are the implications of this visit at this point in time?

[Al-Hasan] His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the State of Qatar will add a new dimension to the good and special bilateral ties. God be praised, Jordanian-Qatari ties have continued to be promoted. The good ties binding his majesty the king to his brother Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of the State of Qatar, constitute the basis and the foundation nurturing these fraternal ties. The visit by his majesty the king to the State of Qatar is part of the continuous consultations and coordination under way between the two leaders and officials of the two countries on various bilateral, Arab, regional, and international issues. The visit is also aimed at examining the prospects of enhancing and promoting these ties in all spheres. His majesty the king's visit will

undoubtedly mark a true and qualitative leap in bilateral ties. Moreover, it will add an additional brick to the edifice of the bilateral ties. It will also contribute to promoting and enhancing Arab solidarity. His majesty the king has always shown an eagerness to reinforce Arab solidarity. His majesty the king has urged continuous efforts to safeguard and protect Arab solidarity, and to restore inter-Arab cohesion so that Arabs may be able to meet challenges in these difficult and critical times. [end recording]

Paper Views King's Talks in Oman, Qatar

JN2203074994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Mar 94 pp 1, 28

[Unattributed editorial: "King Husayn's Oman, Qatar Visits"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's talks in Oman and later in Qatar are especially important given Jordan's major pan-Arab role in the Arab arena. Oman and Qatar are important players both in the Gulf and in the wider Arab arena.

King Husayn's Oman visit should further enhance the common outlook shared by his majesty and the sultan of Oman on Arab issues at this critical point in Arab history, a time when the Arabs need to exert themselves in the interest of increased solidarity and common understanding.

The role being played by Jordan and Oman in the context of containing the Yemeni crisis is an indication of a common perspective on the challenges facing the Arab nation. This makes His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Oman doubly important.

His majesty's visit to Qatar is no less important, especially given that it will be his first since the Gulf crisis, which, if it were not for the bold and enlightened stands of such Arab states as Qatar, might have torn the fabric of inter-Arab relations to shreds.

We are optimistic and hopeful that King Husayn's talks in Oman and Qatar will yield dividends for a brighter Arab future. We are confident that the kind of pan-Arab sense of responsibility typical of the courageous leadership in Oman and Qatar will go a long way toward furthering Arab solidarity, irrespective of the obstacles that have piled up along the way.

Israeli Company Invites Businessmen to Meeting

JN2203104894 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 22 Mar 94 pp 1, 14

[Report by 'Azzam Jarrar: "A Normalization Attempt Via Norway"]

[Text] Some Jordanian food companies have received letters from an Israeli company called Global Information Ltd. inviting them to participate in some advance food industry courses, supervised by a British scientific research association, in the Hilton Hotel, Tel Aviv, next June.

The letter said this would be an opportunity to benefit from the advance courses and meet with and be introduced to colleagues from Israel and other countries in the region, as well as an opportunity to visit Tel Aviv. The letter indicated that the organizing company is ready to arrange hotel reservations, receive participants at the airport, and have visas issued to those needing them.

The letter said the organizers will be happy to arrange meetings with the Israeli food companies and urged participants not to hesitate to contact the organizers for further details.

The letter is signed by Avi Gordon, general manager of Global Information Ltd. It has been learned that these letters reached Jordan via Norway.

The Jordanian companies that received the letter expressed their surprise at and denunciation of this invitation, which they thought was an Israeli psychological maneuver aimed at breaking the Arab boycott even before concluding peace agreements.

Al-Hariri Contacted by Christopher, al-Shar

NC2303123794 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] According to informed sources, Prime Minister al-Hariri was contacted by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. They discussed the escalating Israeli hostilities and the resistance's legitimate response to these attacks.

Christopher also contacted his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' asking him to make quick contacts to curb the military escalation in south Lebanon.

Syrian Troops Crack Down on People Carrying Weapons

NC2203205894 Paris AFP in English 1930 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Ba'labakk, Lebanon, March 22 (AFP)—Syrian soldiers arrested at least three people carrying weapons in this eastern al-Biqa' Valley town on Tuesday [22 March] amid a security crackdown, witnesses here said.

A Syrian military source meanwhile declared illegal any attempt to carry weapons in the town.

Witnesses said the soldiers set up checkpoints in Ba'labakk, searching cars and arresting anyone with weapons.

The measure came 10 days after some 300 armed members of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah movement deployed in Ba'labakk as part of a demonstration by thousands of people in support of Jerusalem Day, in response to a call by Iran.

Lebanon's military prosecutor Nasri Lahhud denounced the presence of armed Hezbollah militants and issued warrants for their arrest, saying they had violated the law.

Some 35,000 Syrian troops are deployed in Lebanon.

Palestinian Denies Anti-U.S. Attack on West Berlin Club

NC2203195794 Paris AFP in English 1817 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, March 22 (AFP)—A Palestinian denied in court here Tuesday [22 March] any involvement in the murder 10 years ago of a Libyan dissident in Germany, where he is also wanted in connection with an anti-US attack.

Yasir Shuraydi, 34, who was also on trial for murders and other crimes committed in Lebanon, said he was not in West Berlin when Mustafa al-'Ashiq, a former Libyan diplomat, was gunned down in 1984.

The Palestinian worked at the Libyan Embassy in East Berlin from 1982 until he left Germany in 1989 to return to Lebanon. Under Lebanese law, he can also be tried for crimes committed abroad.

He also denied any involvement in the April 5, 1986 bombing of the La Belle discotheque in West Berlin frequented by US troops. But Lebanese authorities have not charged him in connection with that attack.

Three people were killed and 230 others wounded in the bombing, which Washington blamed on Libya. Ten days later US bombers blasted the headquarters of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli.

Shuraydi said the Germans suspected him of involvement in the bombing because "I am a Palestinian."

He had tried to recruit volunteers in Germany in 1982 to fight the Israeli Army which invaded Lebanon that year, he said.

Ghassan Ayyub, another Palestinian suspect in the murder of al-'Ashiq, said he had never known the Libyan, stressing that he had gone to Germany in 1984 seeking political asylum.

He fled Germany after the murder because a friend showed him a newspaper report which linked him and Shuraydi with al-'Ashiq's murder. The report was accompanied by photographs of both Palestinians, he added.

After hearing the two men for about an hour the court adjourned until April 19, when a verdict is expected to be announced.

Germany has demanded Shuraydi's extradition but there is no such agreement between Beirut and Bonn.

Under Lebanese law a foreigner living in Lebanon can be tried for a crime committed in this country or abroad and any extradition measure can only be decided by the cabinet after a verdict is pronounced.

Shuraydi, who along with Ayyub come from the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Palestinian refugee camp on the eastern outskirts of the port city of Sidon, was arrested by the Lebanese authorities in 1991 in connection with a string of murders, attempted murder and burglaries.

Sa'adah Voices 'Mixed Feelings' Over Investigations

NC2103205294 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Report by correspondent George Shahin from the Phalangist Headquarters in al-Sayfi on 21 March—recorded]

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah said that the Phalangist Party still awaits the final word from the judiciary on the recent bombings, including the one at the Phalangist Party headquarters in al-Sayfi. We have not accused or exonerated anyone, he said. We have

stressed, and still do, our absolute confidence in the judiciary and the security and military organs, foremost the Lebanese Army. Dr. Sa'adah called for an end to posturing, saying that such practices have been condemned by everyone. The Phalangist Party leader was speaking at an expanded meeting of the party's Political Bureau and Central Council, which met at 1700 today at the party's headquarters in al-Sayfi.

Dr. Sa'adah said: I have mixed feelings about what we heard and read in the newspapers concerning the current investigations in recent crimes such as the bombings at the Phalangist headquarters and the Sayyidat al-Najat Church. My feelings are a combination of satisfaction and pain.

My satisfaction is because the current investigation into these crimes has produced tangible results and promises to uncover the perpetrators, planners, and instigators of these crimes. The bombings did not only cause destruction and claim the lives of dear friends and devout worshipers but were also designed to rattle the foundation of our country and reduce it to a state of helplessness once more, Sa'adah announced.

Slogans propagating self-security and bemoaning oppression against one section of the Lebanese people were raised following these bombings, but such slogans were greeted with nothing but disgust in our community, Sa'adah stated.

Reports that the perpetrators of these crimes will be brought to justice are a cause for delight. We are pleased that this criminal trend will end and that our confidence in the state institutions, particularly the security and military, will remain unshaken, Sa'adah declared.

The Phalangist leader added: But there is pain as well, because we fear that a sense of humiliation may grip our community once the individuals and groups involved in these crimes are named.

We, in the Phalangist Party, have never lost faith in our beliefs. We have never accused or exonerated anyone and we are waiting for the judiciary to issue its final word. We have always had full confidence in the judiciary and the security and military institutions in this country, particularly the Lebanese Army. Our unshifting position has always been that the Army and judiciary should be allowed to carry out their full task without any hindrance at this crucial phase of the country's life, the Phalangist leader said.

Dr. Sa'adah added: On my own behalf and yours, we address a word of respect and admiration to the security institutions, foremost the Lebanese Army, for proceeding, despite accusations leveled to distract them from their task, to unearth all the facts and expose them to the public eye.

Our policy has always been rational. With logic and reason, we have assessed the matters and files laid before us. We issued repeated calls for calm dialogue. We even called for a debate to formulate an effective national policy, a call that has been welcomed by all except those who were only interested in fomenting discontent. We never complained of frustration or backed such complaints. We oppose attempts to manipulate our youth and community. We believe that the Lebanese no longer condone any disruptive and suicidal schemes, Sa'adah declared.

The Phalangist Party leader opened the meeting with congratulations to Lebanese mothers who, he said, deserve to live in dignity, stability, and happiness. He also congratulated, on his behalf and that of all the Phalangists, the elected chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, Shaykh Muhammad Shams-al-Din, and his two deputies. Sa'adah praised Shams-al-Din's political judgment and patriotism.

Dr. Sa'adah also congratulated the Phalangist Party branches in Dhuq Musbih and Kasrawan-al-Futuh on the rally they organized last Saturday and the al-Batrun branch on the reception it organized yesterday to mark Mar Yusuf day.

Finally, the Phalangist Party leader announced that reconstruction work at the Phalangist headquarters is underway. He thanked all those who have so far participated in this effort, but said that more donations will be needed to finance this effort.

The Phalangist Political Bureau will hold its regular weekly meeting at 1900 today, with various political and party issues on its agenda.

Minister Denies Cover-Up in Bombing Probe

NC2203183194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah met the president today and said that a cover-up of the investigation into recent bombings is impossible. He said that security and judicial authorities have seized the ring of people who are responsible for the bombings.

Death Penalty Law Signed for Political Killings

NC2203183294 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] The president today signed a law instituting the death penalty for first-degree murder and political assassination. He also signed a law amending the grounds for appeal against court verdicts in criminal cases and a law governing the appointment of ordinary and administrative court judges.

Ja'ja' Gives Media Notice Before Legal Action

NC2303085794 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Lebanese Forces [LF] Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has emphasized that the media campaign against

the LF is the biggest falsification in the entire history of Lebanon. What is assuring in this falsification process, he said, is that dubious sources are creating this impression about the LF while the judiciary has not yet spoken. Furthermore, the judiciary sources that have been contacted asserted that all newspaper reports have nothing to do with the investigations. He rejected all detailed reports carried by newspapers and considered them totally untrue. He said: We will give 24-hour notice, after which we will be forced to resort to the normal legal measures against any mass media report harming the reputation of the LF. We will be compelled to resort to this method because the process took on the characteristics of defamation and slander and held the LF responsible for the consequences of acts with which the forces have nothing to do, neither closely nor distantly.

In an interview with AL-DIYAR newspaper today, Ja'ja' said: What is happening is that we are being subjected to a political harassment campaign. He noted that every party or any other political faction in Lebanon are subjected to the same campaign and that this is the whole story.

On the latest developments in Ghidras [where LF headquarters and Ja'ja's residence are situated], the LF commander said the atmosphere has not changed but the situation gets harder every now and then because the security measures taken around the LF headquarters in Ghidras have been stepped up to the point that all people coming to Ghidras are subjected to thorough inspection.

He very strongly urged the Lebanese judiciary and the state's political and military agencies to uncover all the circumstances and details of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church bombing and insisted that the trial of the criminals involved in this tragedy be public and open to all people and mass media. He pointed out that politics should not intervene in legal issues and arrest suspects. He noted that the security agencies say they have arrested the perpetrators of the massacre and thus they will have performed their duty in the best possible way. He said these agencies are supposed to have criminal evidence that should be turned to the judiciary which, in turn, will initiate a trial. He stressed that the investigations and their publication are the responsibility of the judicial authorities, not the duty of dubious sources. Noting that no LF personnel are in detention, he said no LF personnel are held in custody, at least not at present, and that what is happening is false accusation. The LF, he said, are subjected to the largest premeditated campaign of injustice and defamation in their history to contain the LF both politically and at the popular level but the results will surely be counterproductive. He said such methods will lead nowhere and noted that the LF are the victims of a process aimed at curbing political and media freedoms in the country.

Katyusha Attacks, Israeli Machine-Gun Fire Reported

NC2303102194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Citing security sources in Marj 'Uyun, REUTER reports that approximately 20 Katyusha rockets were fired at the occupied border strip last night, 10 of which landed in Marj 'Uyun and 10 in al-'Ayshiyah.

Security sources in Rashayya said several rockets were fired from Western al-Biqa' in the direction of the border strip at around 0400 today. The South Lebanese Army's Voice of the South Radio said a number of Katyusha rockets fell in residential areas in Marj 'Uyun but there were no casualties.

At 0915 today, the Habbush Bridge, the woods of 'Arab Salim town, the (Nab' al-Tasah) basin, and the outskirts of Kafr Rumman came under machine-gun fire from the Israeli positions in al-Suwayda'.

Resistance Shelling, SLA 'Raking' Reported

NC2303102494 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reports that a South Lebanese Army [SLA] unit raked the al-Hasbani-Zummarayya axis at 0730 today. In the one-hour operation, the SLA unit fired bursts from machine guns at 'Ayn Bu Siwar and the Mimis-Marj al-Zuhur Highway.

The resistance posts in 'Ayn al-Tinah shelled the border area and Hasbayya with rockets all night last night and until dawn today. The Israeli forces retaliated by shelling Qilya, al-Dallafah, Abu Rashid, and Birkat Jabbur areas in Western al-Biqa'.

Al-Asad Receives U.S. Envoys Ross, Indyk

JN2303140294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Dennis Ross, U.S. Middle East peace process coordinator, and Martin Indyk, U.S. presidential assistant for Middle East affairs, at 0830 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

Mr. Ross conveyed to the president a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton dealing with the peace process and the meetings and contacts he recently held to reinvigorate the process. Mr. Ross briefed the president on the results of his current tour of the region and the subsequent steps for the next stage. He noted the importance of the talks the president held with President Clinton in Geneva and emphasized the United States' commitment to the peace process, its appreciation of the importance of Syria's vital and important role, and its determination to play a more active role in order to push the peace process forward. It was agreed to continue contacts and meetings within the framework of cooperation for the sake of pushing the peace process forward toward its target.

Further on Ross-al-Asad Meeting

JN2303141194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Sana' al-Imam report from Damascus]

[Text] U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross has relayed a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton to President Hafiz al-Asad on the peace process, and the talks and contacts he has recently held to activate the peace process. Ross also reviewed with President al-Asad the outcome of his current regional tour.

U.S. Coordinator Dennis Ross has said that his discussions with President al-Asad today addressed the next steps on the Syrian-Israeli track. He added: A decision to resume the bilateral talks in April has been made. We will hold consultations with our Russian partners on a date for resuming them.

Following almost four hours of talks with with President al-Asad, which he described as good, Ross said: We are committed to do whatever we can to achieve a breakthrough this year.

The U.S. coordinator noted that he has been asked by U.S. President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher to visit Syria to brief President al-Asad on the outcome of Rabin's Washington talks.

Ross added: I have also apprised President al-Asad of the Israeli-Palestinian discussions held in Tunis, and of the progress made in these discussions.

U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross, who arrived in the Syrian capital from Jordan yesterday evening, made a statement upon arrival, saying that his discussions in the Arab capitals he has visited were fruitful, and that they are moving in the right direction. He added that his Syria visit is prompted by the fact that it is a major player in the peace process, as he put it.

Al-Asad, Bahraini Amir Continue Discussions

JN2203192094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Excerpts] At 1030 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, met at the People's Palace to hold further talks on topics discussed at two earlier sessions. [passage omitted]

This meeting was followed by an expanded meeting, which, besides the president and his highness the amir of Bahrain, was attended on the Syrian Arab side by 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, the vice president; Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the prime minister; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister; Dr. Muhammad Harbah, the interior minister; Dr. Muhammad Salman, the information minister; Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; As'ad Mustafa, minister of agriculture; and Radwan Martini, the minister of transportation. On the Bahraini side, the meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, the foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, the interior minister; Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, the minister of transportation; Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad, the information minister; Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Karim Muhammad, minister of finance and national economy; Habib Ahmad Qasim, minister of trade and agriculture; Yusuf Rahmah al-Dusari, chief of the Amiri Court; and Muhammad Ahmad al-Muhaymid, Bahrain's ambassador in Damascus.

During the two meetings, the two sides discussed issues which deal with the peace process in the Middle East, inter-Arab relations, the situation in the Gulf region, issues linked to the Damascus Declaration, and bilateral relations.

The president and his highness the amir of Bahrain were briefed on the results of talks held between competent ministers from the two fraternal countries. They expressed their satisfaction with these results.

The president stressed the importance of improving the Arab situation and strengthening coherence among Arab countries to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation. He stressed Syria's adherence to its pan-Arab constants and its eagerness to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on resolutions of international legitimacy.

For his part, his highness the amir of Bahrain expressed his pride in Syria's pan-Arab stands and its defense of the Arab nation's interests. He said it is important for the Arabs to rally around a pan-Arab policy that secures their interests and dignity. He said Bahrain is eager to

cooperate with Syria to improve inter-Arab relations to serve the pan-Arab interest. He added: Bahrain is eager to develop bilateral relations with Syria in all fields. [passage omitted]

Joint Press Statement Issued

JN2203194094 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1720 GMT 22 Mar 94

["Text" of joint press statement on "His Highness the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah's visit to Syria" issued on 22 March]

[Text] Damascus, 22 Mar (SANA)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, paid an official visit to the Syrian Arab Republic from 20 to 22 March 1994 in response to an invitation by President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic.

This visit by his highness and the accompanying delegation embodies the firm brotherly relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and Bahrain. These relations are reinforced and strengthened by fraternal ties, Arab affiliation, unity of objectives, and common fate.

President Hafiz al-Asad and His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah held cordial talks that focused on relations between the two fraternal countries and on strengthening bilateral coordination and cooperation. Talks also focused on the most important regional and international issues of common interest. The views of both sides were identical and in agreement on these issues.

To reiterate this approach, ministers of both sides held several rounds of talks that focused on invigorating fields of cooperation and exchange to serve the good and interests of the fraternal peoples of both countries.

This visit acquires special importance since it takes place in critical Arab circumstances that stress the importance and inevitability of such Arab visits and meetings in order to revive solidarity and coordination among the brothers, to confront what the world faces in terms of regional and international developments and changes, and to achieve common objectives. These objectives relate to the full restoration of occupied Arab territories, including occupied Syrian Golan and Arab Jerusalem, in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 in order to realize a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the region.

In this regard, the two sides condemned the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and held the Israeli policy of settlements and intransigence fully responsible.

At the conclusion of his visit and during the tours he and the accompanying delegation conducted, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah expressed his appreciation and admiration of what he sensed and saw as far as manifestations of development and awakening the Syrian Arab Republic has achieved under President Hafiz al-Asad, the leader of its march.

His highness wished the people of the Syrian Arab Republic progress and prosperity and wished President Hafiz al-Asad continued good health.

Moreover, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah extended an invitation to President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic to officially visit Bahrain, which he thankfully accepted. The date of this visit will be fixed in the near future.

[Dated] Damascus, 22 March 1994

Amir Ends 3-Day Visit, Departs

JN2203154794 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Damascus, 22 Mar (SANA)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salam Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, left Damascus at 1500 today after a three-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Rabbani Holds News Conference on Current Situation

LD2203182194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, answered the questions of foreign journalists on the current situation in the country in a news conference held this afternoon. A BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] correspondent told us that the news conference was attended by correspondents of foreign news agencies.

At the beginning, Rabbani spoke about the social and political situation of the country and the peace-seeking policy of Afghanistan. The esteemed president said: The policy of Afghanistan is a peaceful policy. The state and the people of Afghanistan do not want fighting. Those whose interests are linked with fighting want fighting. We want peace to be restored very soon because no issue can be resolved by pressure and force. Rabbani also shed light on the peace-seeking measures of the Islamic state.

The president then answered the foreign journalists' questions. Answering a question, Rabbani said: We want a large gathering to be convened by the people in order that the future leadership of the country be elected, and in the current conditions the state cannot leave the scene vacant. Answering another question, our country's esteemed president said: The state makes many efforts for a permanent cease-fire. We do not want the fighting to continue, but unfortunately a large part of the causes of fighting emanate from abroad.

Iran

Investigation, Reports Continue on Downed C-130

Spokesman Denies Plane on Spying Mission

LD2203171194 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 22, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry today denied allegations that the Iranian C-130 plane which crashed near Karabakh region was on a spying mission.

ITAR-TASS news agency had earlier indicated that there was a possibility that C-130 was involved in a spying mission.

Mahmud Mohammadi, a spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, told IRNA today that his ministry categorically rejected such allegations.

"It is a pity that at a time when the people of Iran are mourning the death of the victims of this crash, such baseless and false reports are broadcast by ITAR-TASS news agency," Mohammadi said.

The C-130 plane en route from Moscow to Tehran was carrying the family members of the Iranian foreign service associated with the Iranian diplomatic mission in Moscow.

Victims Buried

LD2303101994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Text] Last night an aircraft carrying the bodies of those martyred in the crash of the Iranian C-130 plane landed at Mehrabad Airport. The aircraft was met at the airport amid magnificent ceremonies attended by the Air Force commander, the deputy foreign minister, and the charge d'affaires of the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Moscow, who has lost all members of his family in that heart-wrenching tragedy.

The funeral ceremony of these martyrs was staged at noon today in the burial ground of Chizar's martyrs, in the presence of Foreign Minister Velayati, and with the participation of the masses of people.

Referring to the cause of the crash, one of the people who has just returned to Tehran from the scene of the crash told our correspondent: In view of the sensitivity of the issue, the mission of the investigation team has been extended to enable them to complete their investigation. He added: Preliminary investigations in the area have shown that the crash was not due to a technical fault, and the aircraft was in fact shot down.

He also denied reports issued by a news agency, and said: The downed aircraft was not moving toward the war zone with a particular objective. However, due to the rapid and sudden change in air pressure which led to windows being broken, the pilot was forced to divert the plane to low altitude areas to reduce the pressure.

Aliyev Calls Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1803212294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Mar 94

[Text] After the crash of a C-130 aircraft belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] in the Khankendi [Stepanakert] region, Azeri President Geydar Aliyev held a telephone conversation with IRI President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in which he expressed his sympathies and offered the condolences of the Azeri government and nation to the president.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, thanking the Azeri president for his sympathies, said: A group of technical experts will be going to the area to investigate the cause of the accident.

Foreign Minister Velayati has also sent a message of condolence to the IRI's ambassador in Moscow on the same occasion. The message expresses deep sorrow for the heartrending incident and stresses: The cause of the

plane crash will be determined through the dispatch of an expert group to the scene.

The IRI embassy in Moscow issued a statement on Friday expressing great sorrow over the loss of life in the plane crash of a number of Iranians who were resident in Russia, and offering condolences to their families. The embassy declared a week of mourning within the Iranian community in Russia.

Russia's Kozyrev Expresses Condolences

LD2003120194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Text] Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev has sent a message addressed to Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati expressing regret over the crash of a C-130 aircraft belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran that caused the death of all on board. He expressed his and his government's sympathy concerning the incident. The message also offers condolences to the relatives of the victims of the crash, which included families of some of the diplomats in the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Moscow.

Officials, Others Address Nation for New Year

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Message

LD2203152894 Tehran IRNA in English 2035 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA—President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his message to the nation on the occasion of the start of the new solar hijri year, 1373, said he saw a bright future for Iran.

He said the country has put behind its first national development plan and is about to embark on the second 5-year plan with more confidence.

"The first plan worked a lot for the country and the effects of it will gradually become apparent. The first effect of it is that the country has acquired strength against conspiracies and unwelcome incidents. We have solidified the infrastructure of the country.

"In the cultural, educational and political sectors our people are at a high level of intelligence in the area of religion and politicis. Their presence on the scene and their Islamic conduct and their observance of Islamic dictates is among the peculiarities of this nation throughout the world, and we take pride in this nation," said the president.

He took note of reconstruction and development efforts and said the difference between the deprived areas before and after the plan is really very much.

"Our people have heard the statistics and the figures. The infrasturctural works such as water, electricity and gas and attention to the water and power of the villages, roads, airports, telecommunications and post for all has progressed at a very good level, which has brought us ahead of the development plan, and our people understand the presence of these communication affairs.

"Our country is not at all comparable to five years ago. The level of production has increased very much and we have approached self-sufficiency. In the area of foodstuffs, cattle, poultry, fisheries, forests and others, thanks God we have advanced with coordination," elaborated the president.

In the use of the resources of the country mines and industries have been activated and strengthened, and today Iran is an exporter of steel, copper and aluminu . three major elements for the industrialized world, he added.

Rafsanjani pointed out that exports of the country during this period has almost quadruppled, and "if this movement continues, the second plan, God willing, can make us to a large extent independent of oil revenues...I think such successes are mainly because of the supports of the people and their presence on the scene."

He said that for youth this year and in the future years there are new programmes, because "from the point of view of population our country is a young country, and our young forces require guidance and help so that they will be able to pass the course of the revolution well."

The hojjat ol-eslam lauded the effective role played by Iran's Muslim women in the era of the revolution, and said "grounds for their added activity in the social affairs and this policy will continue to be exercized so that this year from the point of attention to the spiritual needs of our youths and especially women we will have a successful year."

He was all praise for the armed forces and the unknown soldiers who serve the country and said their vigilence and sacrifice, saw Iran come out with flying colours during the era of holy defense (1980-88).

The president spoke of big accomplishment in the heavy industries field and the procurement of raw materials for plants such as steel and petrochemicals.

"We supplied all kinds of our needs for minerals, most of them can stand on their feet. We can control the market up to some degree, and we hope the shop keepers and the respectble traders will cooperate with us and will consider equity. We, too, will support them.

"Of course, we agree with their balanced profit, and God willing, we will provide them with administrative facilities, especially for the people active in exports."

He was hopeful that "with the support of self-sacrificing people and with the presence on the scene of the war disabled and the former pows and their proud families and with the efforts of those who work for the people with sincerity," Iran is fully geared up to welcome the second five year plan and to embark on the tasks ahead.

He said "fortunately, in the last weeks of this past year foreign exchange constraints that had been created because of the fall of the oil price were removed, and in the coming year we will live without any constraints. Next year we will find a chance to have more power on the market."

Turning to problems on the world scene, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said the Islamic society is having much headache.

"Still in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kashmir, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Karabakh, Iraq, Somalia and many other places Muslims have difficulties and this indicates the spite world arrogance has towards Muslims and Islam."

He said Iran was trying its best to to help Muslims and will continue to contribute towards the resolving of their problems.

"Our foreign policy is nowhere clashes and strife, and I think problems can be solved by negotiations, peacefully and with cooperation," he was confident.

Mojahedin-e Khalq's Rajavi's Message

JN2103184094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Text] Mas'ud Rajavi, chairman of the Iranian National Resistance Council, has described the new Persian year as the year in which the sun will rise brilliantly, signaling the liberation of the Iranian people. It will also be the year the regime that brought destruction to Iran will ebb, he noted.

In a congratulatory message addressed to the Iranian people on the Nauruz festivities and the beginning of a new Persian year, Rajavi added that the victories scored by the Iranian resistance last year undermined the structure of the ruling regime and surpassed the expectations of all observers.

Rajavi indicated that the ruling Iranian regime is experiencing an impasse due to resistance attacks and the political and military siege, which has confused it and rendered it unable to address aggravated crises.

Rajavi added that the popular protest waves which erupt from time to time throughout Iran confirm that the repression and oppression being used by the regime cannot muzzle free people throughout Iran.

Concluding his message, he noted that the UN Human Rights Commission's condemnation of the Tehran regime a few days ago confirm that this regime is illegal.

* Foreign Ministry Economic Adviser Interviewed on GATT

94LA0108A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 Feb 94 p 19

[Text] Economics Division. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was signed by 114 nations on 15 December. Following that the Islamic Republic of Iran's membership in GATT has been seriously considered by our nation's policymakers and officials. Conflicting views and explanations have been presented on this matter. Firuz Dowlatabadi, the Foreign Ministry's economic adviser and chief of its Office of Economic and Strategic Coordination, gave an interview to our correspondent in which he presented his views on this matter, the details of which are presented for you below:

The foreign minister's economic adviser discussed the effects and consequences of joining GATT. He said: International economic organizations cannot actually be evaluated on the basis of whether joining them has benefits or disadvantages.

International organizations, especially international economic organizations, are formed on the basis of a win-win strategy. Therefore, consensus is a principle in these organizations, and without a consensus their decisions are not implemented.

Dowlatabadi said: Membership in these organizations basically faces the profitability of the economic system of each country, and Iran will not be harmed by joining these organizations in the way that is being mentioned. However, one must assess the level of relative advantages in Iran and other nations of our country's steadfastness and determination and the level of the relative advantages that are in general unavailable to us and are available to the other member nations.

What will the future of their behavior be towards us in accordance with the government's policies, whether financial, monetary, foreign exchange or in commercial policy, and how far behind are we in this matter, or how far ahead of them are we?

The chief of the Foreign Ministry's Office of Economic and Strategic Cooperation emphasized: This kind of assesment is the basis for our estimate of the benefits or disadvantages to GATT membership. It is really improper for us to ask whether we will profit or lose by joining GATT, or to ask in what areas we will profit and in what areas we will lose.

He said: Because our assessment of GATT membership has been mistaken, despite the fact that the question of joining GATT has been under discussion continuously for almost 20 years (since the time before the revolution), no suitable conclusion has been reached.

The foreign minister's economic adviser noted: In international relations, if a country has the power to provide expert counsel and if it has more political and economic capacity, due to the fact that it has more factors for limiting trade, it will in turn make more profit.

He noted: One reason we have not gotten the necessary prerogatives to match the nation's political capacity in economic negotiations is our weak foundation of expert knowledge (consultative). Our expert system does not have the necessary capacity. Because negotiations do not

take place at the level of ministers, deputy ministers or general managers, the weakness of expert knowledge has kept us from having the power to do the necessary bargaining, and has prevented us from having the ability to make use of negotiations.

The chief of the Foreign Ministry's Office of Economic and Strategic Cooperation added: Of course, GATT membership cannot be proposed as a means of overcoming this deficiency, but to compensate for this problem an acceptable level of privileges must be designated for the experts who participate in the negotiations, and they must not be allowed to depart from this framework.

He said: During the process of joining, very close and active cooperation must exist between the legislative and executive powers. With support from the law makers we can make the process of joining GATT lawful.

The foreign minister's economic adviser was asked whether there are obstacles to GATT membership in the Constitution. He said: There is no obstacle to GATT membership in the Constitution. Of course, support for some goods is provided in the Constitution and prohibitions are given on imports of some goods, and in this regard it is necessary to have cooperation between the legislative and executive powers.

For example, the level of the Majles's willingness to support industries in this year's budget law was such that the Majles added 10 percent to the taxes on imported vehicles.

He added: We will not be able to do this at this rate in the budget law if we join GATT, and if we join GATT any increase in tariffs will have to be done through negotiations with other members.

Dowlatabadi was asked whether aggressor foreign countries would become active in our country's banking and service affairs in the event of our GATT membership. He said: If we become a member, foreign banks will not necessarily become active in our country. There are many countries, such as Pakistan and Malaysia, where foreign banks cannot operate despite the fact that those countries are GATT members.

He emphasized: There are provisions in GATT that allow that in countries where there are legal obstacles negotiations will be held and they will be made exceptions to the list of provisions in the agreement.

The chief of the Foreign Ministry's Office of Economic and Strategic Cooperation discussed the short-term and long-term effects of GATT membership. He said: Basically, the process of acquiring GATT membership is not a short-term process. It takes at least five years. There can, therefore, be no short-term analysis of this subject. This certainly has to do with our long-term behavior.

Continuing, he added: In my view, our country will definitely profit from GATT membership and there will be no loss in the event we join.

Dowlatabadi discussed the formation of a national committee to study Iran's membership in GATT. He said: I recommend that a group from the Majles become members of this committee and that the request for Iran's membership in GATT be pursued rapidly. The members of the expert negotiation team must be selected. Iran's strategy for GATT membership must be specified, especially in areas that have to do with our newly established support system for exports, production and industries, and it must be given to the expert team so they will know on the basis of which items to pursue negotiations. More important is that there must be continuous and active cooperation between the legislative and executive powers for the study of GATT membership.

He emphasized: That illogical fear among policymakers and that illogical question concerning the profits and losses of GATT membership must be cleared from the minds of policymakers, and the process of GATT membership must be seriously pursued.

Dowlatabadi was asked whether we should take fundamental steps in the nation's economy and then become a member of GATT, or whether we could join it under current circumstances. He said: Joining GATT is not dependent on any circumstances. Nations are members of this organization with the strongest and the weakest economic foundations. The economic structure of a nation is not something that can be strengthened in the short term.

He was asked, in view of the fact that our country is mainly an importer of agricultural products and that our only export is oil, which is not related to GATT issues, and that in a few years the nation's import tariffs would have to be lowered and the payment of subsidies would gradually have to be stopped, whether joining would damage the nation's economy. He said: Our system of tariffs is not efficient, and our tariffs in the agricultural sector are quite low, even lower than GATT. At the same time, in other countries the existing tariff percentage is efficient and effective, and a decrease of several percentage points will have a great effect on the nation's economy, while this is not the case in our economy. Most of the tariff pressures are on the government itself. If we become a member of GATT we will be able to give greater support to the agricultural sector.

He added: There is also a 10- to 15-year period allowed to reduce subsidies. In this regard it is much better for our economic system to be put under pressure and to bring itself to the designated stage by that time.

The Foreign Ministry's economic adviser emphasized: There is no problem regarding the reduction of tariffs in Iran. Tariffs are no problem in our economic system. Even in a nontariff system, our nontariff supports are quite low compared to international members.

The chief of the Foreign Ministry's Office of Economic and Strategic Coordination discussed the effects of this agreement on regional economic pacts such as ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization]. He said: GATT

includes an exception for regional cooperation. These regional cooperation pacts can exist with any kind of preferential tariff. Therefore, there is no obstacle in this and it encourages GATT at the outset. At the same time our economic activity has not yet taken efficient shape in ECO or any other framework in which it is felt that GATT might be harmful.

Dowlatabadi was asked whether the fact that America and the Zionist regime are GATT members with most-favored nation status might bring about the creation of relations with them. He said: In the preliminary negotiations one can make some countries exceptions to economic relations, and the membership of these two nations is no obstacle to joining GATT.

Khamene'i To 'Tighten Grip' on Foreign Policy

PM1803172494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Mar 94 p2

[Unattributed report: "Khamene'i Trying To Tighten Grip on Iran's Foreign Policy"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iranian religious leader 'Ali Khamene'i is expected to tighten his grip on Iran's foreign policy by appointing a number of new ambassadors to replace some of those believed to belong to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's wing.

Highly placed political sources in Tehran said yesterday that Khamene'i is deterined to steer Iranian policy back to "its true revolutionary path" and to annul the experimental policy of normalization represented by Rafsanjani.

Monashir Badi, the Iranian constitutional expert in Tehran, says: The fact that Rafsanjani holds the title of president of the republic causes a lot of confusion in Western capitals. People hear that title and think that Rafsanjani is like the French and U.S. presidents, but our system is totally different. The real head of state here is Khamene'i who can dismiss the president, dissolve parliament, and suspend the Constitution if he wishes. Now Khamene'i is trying to make Western states understand that in the end they will have to deal with him and not Rafsanjani.

Kahmene'i sends this message by openly attacking the Western states with which Rafsanjani starts a secret dialogue.

Yahya Nabbut, another expert on the Iranian regime, says: "Khamene'i has made it clear that Rafsanjani has no power in such fields as defense, security, oil, and contact with the masses. Now the supreme leader is also saying that the president does not have the final say on foreign policy."

There is one issue on which conflicting signals have been coming out of Tehran. That issue is the number of Iranian pilgrims this year. Mohammad Mohammadi Reshari, who has the task of leading the pilgrims, has acceded to a government request that the number of pilgrims be halved.

That is in line with President Rafsanjani's policy of cutting hard currency expenditure in some sectors so that the country can finance imports of such necessities as food products and spare parts. The cost of Iranian pilgrimage is estimated at $3 billion, based on 1989 figures, but some pilgrims buy more currency on the black market so as to be able to purchase commodities in Saudi Arabia which are scarce in Iran.

Observers offer three points in support of the view that Iran itself is trying to reduce the number of pilgrims:

1. The contracts signed with the airline companies, including the Bulgaria Balkan company, only cover half the number of seats that were available last year.

2. The number of people who received official written invitations to special courses on pilgrimage rites and other related matters has decreased.

3. Government departments, semi-public establishments, and other big organizations have been informed that their quotas will be cut by half as part of the government's austerity drive.

Iranian economy and finance ministries' reports indicate that Iran could save up to $1 billion by reducing the number of pilgrims. Iran is expected to suffer a fall of $5 billion in its other important savings in the next 12 months.

Khamene'i, however, is worried that a cut in the number of pilgrims might trigger accusations that his government is interfering with religious duties. That could destroy his efforts to secure a place among the highest echelon of mullas.

Badi says: "Rafsanjani was right to tell people that they have to save money. Khamene'i wants to blame others when a smaller number of pilgrims go to holy Mecca. The fact is that if the same number of people went on pilgrimage this year as 1992, the government would face a most serious balance of payments crisis and a more rapid collapse of its currency."

Some observers in Tehran give a more Machiavellian interpretation of the conflicting signals from Khamene'i and Rafsanjani.

They that this may be a double act to cause a diplomatic problem to make it possible for Tehran to prevent the Iranians from going on pilgrimage this year, which would enable the government to save $2 billion at least.

Commentary 'Failure' of U.S. Diplomacy

NC2003115994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 20 Mar 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

The Year 1372 [Year beginning 21 March 1993] was a year replete with success for some of the countries of the world, but for many others, it was a year of failure and defeat. The successes and failures were not all similar and differences stemmed from the distinctive conditions prevailing in the respective countries.

However, in 1372, the United States achieved nothing but overt defeat. The United States began this year with apprehension of the future, and a bleak outlook on its strategy for grappling with international issues in the aftermath of the Cold War. In the last days of the year, most of this trepidation persisted and Washington's quest for adopting a comprehensive stand and policy on international developments has failed.

Last year, the U.S. Government's policy in foreign crises was the target of intense criticism at the domestic and international level. U.S. President Clinton's series of defeats in his interventionist policies in many countries served to undermine the people's trust and elicited the objections of the Congress against those who implement the country's foreign policy.

What is certain is that the U.S. foreign policy in the aftermath of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union continues to be based on continued interference in the internal affairs of all countries and proliferation of this interference. This objective was pursued in the period when the Republicans were in power and has been continued by the Democrats.

Regardless of the U.S. hostility toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, countries such as Iraq, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, and Haiti were the main focus of the U.S. foreign policy activities. As regards Iraq, the United States ignores the rights of the people and continues its policy of constant pressure and the imposition of UN sanctions and has prevented all kinds of balanced solutions.

The most conspicuous examples of the defeat of the U.S. interventionist policies can be more clearly perceived in countries such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, and Haiti. After a prolonged silence on the atrocities of the Serbs, and indifference toward the killing of 350,000 Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the United States sought to extricate itself from its political isolation by Europe and entered the fray. What motivated the United States to intervene was the emergence of conditions conducive to cooperation with Europe for implementing the covert plan for partitioning Bosnia-Herzegovina.

For this purpose, the Serbs were threatened with a NATO air strike within a propaganda display on the one hand, and on the other, by means of suitable pretexts and with UN cooperation, the matter of any direct military intervention was ruled out. These actions by the United States brought new disgrace for the West and the United Nations both of whom profess to be defenders of the rights of the defenseless people of the world.

Another manifestation of the perplexity of U.S. foreign policy was in Somalia. The United States entered the arena on the pretext of responding to the crisis on humanitarian grounds, but with the passage of time, the sinister motives of the United States in launching these operations were apparent to all. From the vantage point of the U.S. military echelons, the U.S. military presence in the Horn of Africa was a guarantee for controlling the crises in this vicinity that threatened its interests.

However, with the resistance of the Muslim Somali people and the killing of U.S. soldiers, Washington woke up to reality and admitted to its vulnerability and the defeat of its policy in Somalia. This resulted in a withdrawal of 5000 U.S. soldiers from Somalia.

In the crisis in Haiti, U.S. foreign policy suffered a worse fate as the efforts by the Clinton administration in the past year to reinstate deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and to convince the military rulers of the country failed. Initially, by coercion and in order to cover up the disgrace of its retreat from Somalia, the United States dispatched troops to Haitian shores. Right from the outset, it encountered the resistance of the people and the armed forces of that country. Ultimately, the United States forced the United Nations to reimpose an oil and arms embargo on the military government of Haiti. These sanctions were criticized vehemently by the people of Latin America.

All these crises in 1372 exposed the effete nature of U.S. foreign policy in such a way that, for months after the Clinton administration took over, the fallout continued in the form of the American people worrying at the trend in U.S. foreign policy. Last year, a CBS television poll indicated that 61 percent of the Americans are apprehensive at the performance of the Clinton administration in foreign crises.

On the other hand, the resignations by U.S. State Department officials are another reflection of these fears. Some congressional deputies even called for Warren Christopher's resignation as he did not have any answer for the failure of such interventions.

In any case, facts and figures confirm that the current U.S. administration has no other recourse but to review the decisions and objectives of its foreign policy. As the WASHINGTON TIMES reported, Clinton has not been able to evolve a strategy for U.S. foreign policy in the first year of his presidency.

Pakistan

President Leghari Speaks at Military Parade

BK2303094294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 0418 GMT 23 Mar 94

[Address by President Farooq Ahmad Leghari at the Pakistan Day military parade at Jinnah Avenue in Islamabad—live]

[Text] Brigadier Oragzai, commander of the joint parade of the Armed Forces; officers, junior commissioned officers, crusaders, and my dear compatriots: Peace be upon you. Greetings to you on the Pakistan Day. I feel proud to address this joint parade of the armed forces, which is the most magnificent ceremony of Pakistan Day. On this auspicious day of Pakistan Day, the Muslims of the subcontinent pledged that they would create a separate independent homeland for the defense of their religion, history, traditions, and their own national identity. This commitment of ours has had the support of Almighty God. That is why we were fortunate to have a sagacious, sincere, and resolute leader like Qaide Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, under whose unprecedented leadership we reached our destination. But let me remind you that this boon of freedom was achieved through the great sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of Muslims. On this day, we bow our heads to God in thanksgiving while paying tributes to the Qaide Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, saluting our martyrs, and making a pledge that we will defend this trust and the sacred motherland of Pakistan. We will work relentlessly and not hesitate to make any sacrifice for the country's strength. The armed forces are proud that the sacred responsibility of defending the country lies with them. Our soldiers, navy men, and airmen are experts in the military arts and are the embodiments of sacrifice and bravery. Today's glorious parade reflects their professional standard. The resolute faces of the officers and soldiers taking part in the parade manifest their morale, enthusiasm, and spirit. These are those holy warriors who, every second, are ready to face any danger facing the country and who are ever willing to directly confront the enemy's designs. The nation has full confidence in their military capability and bravery. Whether in times of war or peace, they are always ready to respond to the call of duty. They have manifested dutifulness, performance, devotion, and sacrifice in the face of natural calamities and all kinds of emergencies. Through their bravery, determination, enthusiasm, and self- sacrifice, they have conquered all adversities. We are sure that they will also overcome any test in the future and will maintain their glorious traditions.

Sometime back, the armed forces were given the duty of assisting in holding the general elections in a peaceful atmosphere and in an impartial and orderly manner. The task was of national importance, which they performed with such excellence that all political parties and national and international observers commended them. For the last one and half years, our Army has been assisting the provincial government to restore law and order and to uproot crime in Sindh. As a result of the industrious action in this connection, the law and order situation has improved and it is now hoped that in the future a common citizen will be able to live in a peaceful atmosphere.

Our brave officers and soldiers are serving valiantly in the icy Siachen region—the highest battleground of the world—and are risking their lives to discharge their duty to defend the country. Their morale, determination and steadfastness in this extremely inhospitable region are proof of their role as holy warriors and reflect our glorious military traditions.

Similarly, along the hundreds of miles of the line of control in Kashmir, our holy warriors—indifferent to the serious weather conditions and difficulties of the mountainous region—are devoted to foiling the enemy's designs and discharging their defensive duties in the forward areas. The effective defense of the motherland is on top of the present government's priorities. Despite the financial constraints faced by the country and the burden of the socioeconomic problems, the Pakistan Government attaches great importance to defense requirements because the country's stability and an atmosphere conducive to socioeconomic progress largely depend on an effective defense. It is our commitment that regardless of all difficulties and all types of internal and external pressures, we will continue our efforts to make our defense stronger and stronger. An estimate of the danger facing our country can be made by viewing the accelerated military expenditures and preparations being carried out in our neighboring country. In view of these dangers, we have no alternative but to pay full attention to our defense. The security of the country and a strong defense are our top foreign policy objectives. We are using our diplomatic and international connections for this purpose and promoting cooperation with friendly countries in the economic as well as in the defense field to the maximum possible extent.

We want to maintain cordial relations with the entire world in general and with the Muslim and neighboring states in particular on the basis of equality and national dignity. To us, lasting peace is based on faith in coexistence, respect for each country's territorial integrity and sovereignty, refraining from interfering in others' internal affairs and not indulging in fostering designs to establish hegemony in any region, especially regarding small neighboring countries. We ourselves do not have any aggressive designs against any country, nor do we want to occupy anyone's territory, hurt its just national interests, or establish dominance over states in our region. We want to see this principle practiced in the foreign policy of our neighboring countries because in any region relations based on peace and friendship and tension-free ties depend on implementing these principles. Thank God, we enjoy cordial relations with all countries of the world. We enjoy deep fraternal ties with all Muslim countries in our region. We enjoy exemplary

relations with the people's Republic of China, and we are proud of these ties. We also enjoy deep and fruitful relations with the South Asian states.

We want to establish similar relations with our close eastern neighbor, but the Kashmir issue is a fundamental obstacle in the path of normal relations. The only solution to this issue is for the Kashmiri people to exercise the right of self-determination given to them in accordance with the 1947 Indian partition plan, the UN resolutions, and international law. Unfortunately, our neighbor is yet not aware of this reality. However, the Kashmiri people's unprecedented uprising and their spirit of freedom, courage, determination, and sacrifice is rudely awakening people's consciences. That is why the day is not far off when, like Muslims of other parts of the subcontinent, Kashmiri people will also achieve their inalienable right of self-determination. The Kashmiri uprising has entered a decisive stage. The Pakistani Government and people are behind the oppressed Kashmiri people and will continue to extend full political, diplomatic and moral support to them.

Pakistan is not only our motherland, but also a strong fortress of Islam, by the grace of God. In this way, certain responsibilities fall on our shoulders. We are grateful to God that He has granted us the will and the divine guidance under which we are fulfilling our responsibilities toward the Islamic community according to our capability.

We enjoy deep Islamic fraternal relations with Afghanistan. We have supported our Afghan brethren to the best of our ability in their historic struggle against foreign aggression. Now, we pray to God for an early establishment of peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan so that our brotherly country can march toward peace and reconciliation and progress and prosperity.

An Islamic country which is facing foreign aggression because of the apathy of the international community and where human rights, international law, the UN resolutions, and the recognized principles of justice are being mercilessly violated is Bosnia. As a member of the United Nations and in view of our Islamic ties, we are aggrieved at the brutalities being committed against the people of Bosnia and are raising our voice against them at all international forums. The Bosnian problem is a glaring example of the international community's double standard. Like Somalia, where our troops are offering great sacrifices to maintain law and order and to ensure the continued supply of international aid to its people under the leadership of the United Nations, we are ready to assist the United Nations in protecting the besieged and unarmed people of Bosnia and establishing peace there. Pakistan is supporting and providing practical assistance to the UN efforts to establish peace in different regions of the world. The record of services rendered by the Pakistani forces in this regard is excellent. Only recently, our troops returned home after performing their duties regarding the conducting of elections and the restoration of democracy in Cambodia after the establishment of peace in that country. The manner in which their superior performance has been admired at international level is a matter of great pride for us. I congratulate our brave armed forces for this. A strong defense is deeply related to law and order, economic progress, and social justice. We cannot strengthen our defense without strengthening our economy and scientific, technical, and industrial development. Under the conditions of a weak economy and educational backwardness, we can neither achieve self-sufficiency in the field of arms manufacturing nor provide the required resources to the defense sector. Therefore, your government is making concrete, comprehensive, and coordinated efforts to accelerate the pace of the country's economic development, to generate maximum opportunities for employment, and to provide education and health care facilities to the majority of the population. Several task forces have been set up for this purpose. In accordance with the recommendations of these task forces, legislations are being enacted and a new administrative structure is being set up; in addition, the implementation of the economic development program in all spheres of life is going on at full swing. Under the new Social Contract program of the elected popular government, the people are being provided with social justice and civic amenities, their due shares in economic and educational development, and human rights. This will not only create a new awakening among our people, but will also create a new spirit and enthusiasm, besides increasing their productivity and the country's gross production; and the nation will march forward on the path of prosperity. In this manner, the (?government) will play an important role in ensuring the progress of our hard-working, sincere, and patriotic people and in strengthening the defense of the motherland and the security of the nation.

Today's grand parade, in which not only our valiant forces but also the four provinces are participating with the variegated colors of their respective cultures and economies, is a symbol of our nation's bright and promising future. I congratulate the organizers of this parade and compliment the officers, leaders of the marching contingents, and soldiers. May God help and protect you! Long live the armed forces of Pakistan! Long Live Pakistan!

Editorial Says India Reneged at Geneva

BK2103162694 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu
20 Mar 94 p 3

[Editorial: "India's Breach of Promise .... Iran's Deposition"]

[Text] Pakistan's decision to not pursue a vote on its resolution at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva on 9 March regarding the human rights situation in occupied Kashmir was at the request of the friendly countries of Iran and China. Iran assured Pakistan that

India would permit a delegation of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] member countries to visit occupied Kashmir so as to assess the human rights violations there. The Pakistani delegation's spokesman cited the Indian pledge as the reason for the decision to not seek a vote on the resolution. On the very next day after the deferment of the resolution, India's Minister of State for External Affairs Salman Khurshid and External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh claimed that India had made no commitment to provide an opportunity to the delegation of Islamic countries to visit occupied Kashmir and that Pakistan unconditionally deferred the vote on the resolution.

These statements by the Indian authorities have badly affected the position of Pakistan, as the Indian external affairs minister had rejected Pakistan's assertions. At this juncture, political and media circles in Pakistan urged the government to present a correct picture of the situation and say whether India had really made any such commitment. In response to this, Foreign Secretary Shahryar Khan said Pakistan has documentary evidence of India's promise to let the ICO delegation visit occupied Kashmir. Now, on arrival at Islamabad, Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's special emissary and Deputy Foreign Minister Ala-ed-Din Borujerdi has said in categorical terms that India promised Iran and China that it would allow envoys from Islamic countries to visit occupied Kashmir. The categorical announcement of the Iranian guest is enough to make it clear that Pakistan's assertion is right and that of India is wrong.

Definitely, Iran and China would have been surprised and anguished over the Indian statements, but certainly no one in Pakistan would be surprised about the Indian attitude. We are quite familiar with India's record and have experienced its numerous silly tricks. India's tendency has always been to make promises when it comes under pressure on any problem, but when it is relieved of that pressure, it fudges on the promises. We experienced two instances of this, in 1948-49 and in 1962. Coming under pressure from mojahedin in 1948-49, the Indian Government promised to hold a plebiscite in Kashmir and confirmed this in international fora. Soon after that, India reneged on that promise. When India had to embrace defeat at every step during its war with China in 1962 on the border question, it expressed its readiness to hold talks with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue and also held six rounds of foreign minister-level talks under international pressure. As far as the outcome of the talks are concerned, India was not prepared to budge from its stubborn posture. The war on the border question was over by then and India was out of danger.

When Pakistan moved a resolution on the Kashmir issue at the UN General Assembly a few months ago, India, through the mediation of mutual friends, extended an invitation to Pakistan for talks on the Kashmir situation on the condition that Pakistan withdraw its resolution. Pakistan accepted the offer so as to make it clear to the world that it never refuses to hold talks. As a result, bilateral talks were held at the beginning of January. Even then, India maintained its unpleasant tradition and refused to adopt any reasonable position. Therefore, Pakistan was constrained to move its resolution at the UN Human Rights Commission.

The latest announcement of Ala-ed-Din Borujerdi has once again revealed India's falsehood and made it clear that it does not honor pledges made at international fora. This statement by the Iranian deputy foreign minister has once again put the ball in India's court, and now India should either allow the ICO delegation to visit Kashmir or become a liar before Iran and China in particular and the international community in general. India also made the flamboyant claim that it does not want to conceal the situation in occupied Kashmir from the eyes of the world, and has granted permission to visit to the ambassadors of European countries first and to those of neutral countries thereafter. The foreign diplomats who visited the state, however, while considering the Indian claim regarding the situation in occupied Kashmir, have said that they were not allowed to tour the state freely. The 10 envoys of the delegation were virtual prisoners in the hands of the Indian administration. They were not allowed to meet people freely nor were they allowed access to the areas of their choice. Those who wanted to meet the envoys were not allowed to enter the Government Guest House. The diplomats said that wherever they went they encountered strong official security, and those who met them said without mincing words that they do not want to stay with India and that they either want total independence or annexation to Pakistan. This account of the diplomats after their visit makes it clear that a powerful struggle continues in Kashmir for escape from the bondage of India, and India is not willing to permit foreign observers to take stock of the situation there. If the internal situation bars India from permitting the ICO delegation to review the situation in the state despite its latest pledge, the people of Pakistan can fully understand it. It is the duty of the Government of Pakistan to continuously raise the Kashmir issue at international fora and follow India closely. It is the moral responsibility of Iran and China to ask India to let the ICO delegation visit the state as promised. To a great extent, the statement of the Iranian deputy foreign minister has disproved the propaganda by the opposition in Pakistan against the government's deferment of the resolution.